

Columbia blasts off with aqua cargo

CAPE CANAVERAL (AFP) — The shuttle Columbia roared into space Friday carrying seven astronauts and the widest array of aquatic animals to be tested in orbit to date. With the first Japanese woman on a space mission aboard, Columbia lifted off as scheduled Friday at 12:40 p.m. (1643 GMT) for a mission due to last 13 days, 17 hours and 57 minutes — one of the longest shuttle flights. Columbia is making its 17th flight. The launch marks the 60th shuttle mission for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. This mission will include microgravity experiments, taking advantage of the nearly gravity-free conditions in orbit. Columbia will carry the second international microgravity laboratory (IML-2) in its cargo bay. The laboratory will play host to a series of 80 experiments sent up by 15 countries and six space agencies, among them NASA, the Japanese NASDA, Europe's ESA, the French CNRS, the German DARA and Canada's CSA. Thousands of specimens including goldfish, flies, jellyfish, roach eggs and baby sea urchins have been loaded onto the shuttle.

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Arafat to visit Saudi Arabia

TUNIS (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was to travel to Saudi Arabia late Friday for his last foreign visit before returning "definitively" to the self-rule territories of Gaza and Jericho, a Palestinian official said here. The officials, who asked not to be named, said Mr. Arafat would later return to the PLO's Tunis headquarters for a final farewell ceremony, and would leave the Tunisian capital "probably" on Tuesday. Mr. Arafat revealed his travel plans to senior members of his main-stream Fatah faction Friday.

Two-man crew killed in British jet crash

NICOSIA (AP) — A British Royal Air Force Tornado F3 fighter-bomber crashed in the sea of South Cyprus on Friday, killing its two crewmen, the British bases announced. An RAF helicopter picked up the crewmen and flew them to a base hospital where they were pronounced dead on arrival, according to the statement. The names of the two men were withheld. The Tornado, which is currently on a training exercise at the RAF's 22nd Air Base in Cyprus, was on a low-level mission when it crashed into the sea. The aircraft was carrying two crewmen and was on a low-level mission when it crashed into the sea.

Rocket attack on Kabul kills 2

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — At least 12 civilians were killed and 44 injured as Kabul was hit by a rocket barrage Friday, Radio Kabul reported. The broadcast monitored here said forces of rival Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and ex-communist General Abdul Rashid Dostum fired a total of 97 rockets into the city. The attack targeted residential areas destroyed at least seven houses and a mosque, the radio said, adding the victims were all civilians.

Israel returns antiquities to Egypt

RAFAH, Egypt (AFP) — Israel on Friday handed over to Egyptian authorities a batch of antiquities seized during its 15-year occupation of the Sinai peninsula, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. A team of Egyptian archaeologists brought the relics into Egypt via the Gaza Strip crossing point of Rafah, after the Israeli department of antiquities had registered them with international organizations. The artifacts, packed into about 50 boxes, included a large statue of an ancient Egyptian god and a pharaonic clay pot. There were also objects with Hebrew engravings, and Christian and Muslim relics. The artifacts will be displayed first in Cairo's Egyptian Museum until a special exhibition hall is built for them in Sinai, MENA reported. Israel first began returning Sinai's antiquities in April 1992, after having hammered out with the Egyptians a mechanism for the handover in January.

Li breaks off Germany visit

ROTTACH-EGERN, Germany (AFP) — Chinese Premier Li Peng on Friday broke off an official visit to Germany which has been disrupted by human rights protests, cancelling the rest of his planned programme. A spokesman for the Bavarian chief minister's office said the Chinese delegation's chief of protocol had informed them that the official programme would no longer be followed. No reason was given for Mr. Li's cancellation, the spokesman said, but he ruled out health reasons. The premier was to have taken a boat ride on a Bavarian lake Friday afternoon.

Yemeni civil war ends; Aden leaders flee

Sanaa announces amnesty and affirms commitment to democracy

Combined agency dispatches

TWO MONTHS of grueling civil war has ended with northern troops overrunning the southern capital, and Yemen's presidential council has proclaimed an end to fighting and renewed commitment to democracy.

Sana'a radio quoted a northern military spokesman as saying all southern forces had surrendered.

Yemen's presidential council, meanwhile, announced an "end to all military operations" and pledged to uphold democracy in the country.

Northern officers in Aden said at least 3,000 southern troops were taken prisoner and 10 southern MIG-29 and MiG-21 jet fighters were captured on the ground.

But six gunboats of the southern navy fled Aden, the officers said.

At U.N. headquarters in New York, a key northern official delivered a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and spoke of the plans for reconciliation.

"There will be a general amnesty and there will be compensation for property lost regardless of the side people were on," said Abdul

Karim Al Iryani.

"We are committed that Yemen will continue to adhere to democracy, to the multi-party system, free elections and cooperation with the United Nations," Dr. Iryani said.

He called on the United Nations to continue monitoring the situation in Yemen "to make sure that amnesty is applied and human rights are protected and to make sure that multiparty democracy and freedom of the press still prevail."

Southern separatist leader Ali Salem Al Beidh and five of his aides slipped out of Aden to Oman, Yemen's eastern neighbour, where they were granted asylum, according to Yemen's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ghaleb Ali Jamil.

Dr. Iryani did not say if the southern leaders that fled could apply for amnesty. "They are exiled. That is their choice... for the time being they themselves will probably not wish to come," he said.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh's government made five pledges to the U.N.:

— The immediate cessation of all military action in

compliance with Security Council resolutions 924 and 931.

— The start of relief operations in and around Aden.

— Its decision to declare a full and comprehensive amnesty and its readiness to compensate all losses of life and property caused by the war.

— Respect for democracy, political pluralism, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and human rights.

— Commitment to the resumption of the national dialogue in the framework of constitutional legitimacy.

The Yemenis also said it was determined to cooperate fully with other countries in the Middle East region "on the basis of mutual respect for territorial integrity and non-intervention in domestic affairs."

"The secretary general stressed the importance the international community attaches to the full and immediate implementation of the commitments made in the letter," a spokesman for Dr. Ghali said.

"He expressed his hope that no effort would be spared in order to restore normalcy to the whole of

Yemen and to promote peace and prosperity for its people.

The government of Saudi Arabia — which provided the Boeing 737 for the group — on Friday condemned north Yemen's resort to a military solution and urged the start of an unconditional dialogue.

The Saudi government has "condemned the Sanaa government's obstinacy in fighting on regardless of international resolutions calling for a ceasefire," state television said Friday.

The remarks came in a special overnight meeting chaired by King Fahd.

The government expressed "deep regret" at the loss of life and property in the fighting and called on the northern authorities to "resume unconditional dialogue" with the southern leaders in line with U.N. resolutions.

"With this appeal Saudi Arabia seeks only to support the establishment of security and stability for the Yemeni people and the whole region," the government said.

When the northern Yemeni advance on Aden began in earnest, Saudi Arabia failed to obtain U.N. Security Council approval for a

peacekeeping force that would have stabilised the situation and internationalised the conflict, which was what southern Yemen was seeking.

The north accused Riyadh of financing arms supplies to the south. Saudi Arabia was also behind diplomatic efforts in the United Nations for a ceasefire.

Mr. Jiffri told AFP that "internal resistance is continuing throughout the country, in Aden itself and in Lahaj, Shabwa and Hadramawt province."

He said southern troops were still active in several regions, and resistance would continue until President Saleh's "hordes leave our country."

Travelling with Mr. Jiffri were southern "deputy prime minister" Suleiman Massud, "defence minister" Haitham Qassem Taber, "interior minister" Muhammad Ali Ahmad and "social affairs minister" Hazima Shokri, officials said.

The southern leaders had arrived in Djibouti earlier Friday from Aden on board a cargo ship, the Trade Ambassador.

The Liberian-registered

Palestinian traffic police in W. Bank

RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank (AFP) — Palestinian traffic police have begun operating in two occupied West Bank towns for the first time in seven years, with the approval of the Israeli military administration, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Friday. About 40 policemen selected by the PLO went out into the streets of Ramallah and Al-Birah Thursday, said Nimir Attiya, a PLO official in charge of the new traffic programme. They are the first traffic police to operate in the towns since December 1987, when all Palestinian policemen in the occupied territories resigned after the start of the intifada. Since then, many public services have disintegrated or fallen into disrepair. The new police will "not really give out tickets for traffic violations, but will appeal to the people to follow rules," said Mr. Attiya. "Traffic here is very dense, and the police will try to ease any bottlenecks. We started with this activity and we will see if we can spread it to other public services." The unarmed police wear blue jeans, a white shirt and navy cap and have an armband reading "Traffic Police."

King meets deputies today on peace talks, other issues

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein is today expected to meet with members of the Lower House of Parliament to brief them on the latest developments on the Jordanian track of the peace process and other domestic and regional issues, parliamentary sources have said.

Sources said the meeting was planned before 60 members of the House Thursday sent King Hussein a letter "complaining" about the practices of the government and criticising it for "hiding behind him."

In the letter, which was delivered to the King by House Speaker Taher Al Masri, the lawmakers criticised the practices of the government since it was formed in June last year, including the recent reshuffle which brought 10 deputies to the Cabinet.

The lawmakers reiterated earlier criticism of the government for dissolving the 11th Parliament and its unilateral decision to change the Election Law despite strong opposition from the House as well as other political circles, parliamentary sources told the Jordan Times.

The sources added that the deputies also criticised Prime

Minister Abdul Salim Al Majali for circumventing parliamentary blocs when he held his negotiations over the reshuffle last month.

According to the sources, the deputies said in the letter that the 10 lawmakers who joined the Cabinet do not represent the House.

The lawmakers also indicated in the letter that the government needs a new vote of confidence from the House on the basis of a new policy statement since more than two thirds of its members were changed in the reshuffle.

Deputies agreed to send the letter to the King a few days after Dr. Majali introduced the reshuffle in expression of their anger about what many of them called the attempt by the government to marginalise the role of the legislature.

But deputies decided not to send the letter then in order not to rock the boat at a time when the King was on a "very important" visit to the United States.

Parliamentary sources did not expect the letter to have any immediate impact on the government, but speculated that the King "will use it at the right time," probably before the House convenes in

its second ordinary session later this year.

The sources said that the fact that 60 deputies signed the letter does not mean all of them would withhold confidence from the government if a new role of confidence in it were called.

Parliamentary sources said there were slim chances for the House to convene in a second extraordinary session since it has recessed from the first such session, and it is not certain more than half the number of deputies would request it. A lack of a clear perception of the topics that could be discussed in the session was also cited as one of the reasons for excluding a second extraordinary meeting.

Lawmakers have been holding regular informal meetings since the end of the extraordinary session in mid-June to discuss a number of issues, mainly the relationship with the government.

Parliamentary sources said when Dr. Majali introduced his Cabinet reshuffle that that trouble was looming for the government in Parliament because many deputies feel "antagonised" by Dr. Majali for "ignoring the institutions of the House," namely the blocs.

Vatican envoy begins talks here

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Talal Al Hassan and Vatican Foreign Minister Jean Luis Tauran on Friday held a round of talks at the Foreign Ministry focusing on bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Hassan told Jordan Television that the two sides also discussed the status of holy sites in occupied Jerusalem.

Archbishop Tauran, who arrived in Amman earlier Friday, on a three-day visit to Jordan, described the Kingdom as a moderate country which enjoys tolerance.

He said that the Kingdom had a major role in this part of the world considered by the Vatican as extremely important for its religious value.

He said his visit to Jordan comes as part of efforts exerted by the Vatican to support the peace process, noting that the Middle East which has suffered as a result of war and hatred has now to look for a secure and stable future.

Mr. Tauran added that Jordan and the Vatican should have a key role in pushing the peace process forward.

The Vatican minister will meet with senior Jordanian officials during his visit.

"My visit to Jordan takes place in the general context of peace. I can say, because the Middle East region is now engaged in the process that the Holy See deems very important and significant for the future of this part of the world," he said. "We have now diplomatic relations with Jordan and so we enjoy normal international standards between the Holy See and Jordan and this is a very important step. Also and I think during this conversation we shall try to share views about the peace process, about our bilateral relations, the life of the Catholic church in Jordan and also to raise some issues like the question of the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, which is very dear to the Holy See and Jordan."

"We think that Jordan, which is a country of moderation and tolerance has a great role to play in this part of the world and we shall perhaps consider what we can do together in order to foster

Settlers berserk in Hebron after two Israelis killed

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Jewish settlers went on the rampage in the occupied West Bank Friday, attacking Palestinian cars and homes after two Israelis were killed, Palestinian sources said.

Armed settlers in Hebron set fire to one car and smashed the windows of homes with stones, Palestinian witnesses said.

Settlers also vandalised Palestinian property in Ramallah and Kiryat Arba, north of Jerusalem, puncturing dozens of car tyres, the sources said.

On two roads leading from Jerusalem to the West Bank settlers erected barricades of burning tyres.

Meanwhile in Jerusalem mourners at the funeral of one of Thursday's victims jostled journalists and forced them to leave. Only Israeli Television reporters were allowed to stay.

Unknown assailants killed the girl and wounded her father and brother in an attack near the settlement of Kiryat Arba, outside Hebron. The army imposed a curfew in Hebron.

Mourners cried "traitor" at General Shaul Mofaz, commander of the Israeli forces in the West Bank, when he

turned up at a funeral.

The corpse of a 20-year-old Israeli soldier who had been kidnapped was found Thursday near the Jewish settlement of Koshav Yaacov, on the West Bank north of Jerusalem. He had been shot and stabbed to death.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas underlined that it was continuing the armed struggle against Israel and warned the Palestinian police not to disarm militants in the autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho.

A bomb exploded Thursday evening on Bethlehem's Manger Square and a second was defused. A Palestinian suspected of planting the explosive was hurt and arrested in hospital.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinians opened fire on an Israeli army position at the main Jewish settlement area called Gush Katif and at the Erez checkpoint.

The same day masked Palestinians stabbed to death two fellow Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israel.

Israel's right-wing opposition accused the PLO of encouraging Hamas in its campaign of violence in a bid to force Israel to pull out of the West Bank.

(Continued on page 2)

Russia wants Iraq sanctions eased after Kozyrev-Aziz talks

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia has held talks with Iraq and backs an easing of international sanctions against Baghdad, a Russian deputy foreign minister was quoted as saying Friday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov, speaking to the news agency Interfax, said that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Aziz had met with Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev in Saint Petersburg on Thursday, describing the talks as "informal."

He said Iraq had fulfilled most conditions set by the United Nations for lifting the sanctions, imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, and Russia wanted the U.N. Security Council to give a "positive signal."

"We told (Aziz) that scrupulous application of U.N. resolutions would allow Russia to support lifting sanctions by stages," said Mr. Kolokolov.

Moscow is proposing a six-month period of international supervision of Iraqi disarmament, starting this month, he said. If Baghdad proved that it was meeting U.N. conditions Moscow would then ask for lifting the embargo on Iraqi oil sales.

Once sanctions were lifted, Russia was "ready to resume cooperation with Iraq," said Mr. Kolokolov. Before the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, it was one of Iraq's closest allies and arms suppliers.

The Security Council renewed sanctions in March but was divided on the issue for the first time since they were adopted, with Russia, France, China and Brazil asking for Iraqi "progress" to be recognised.

Mr. Aziz has been touring world capitals in the last few weeks as part of a campaign to get the sanctions lifted.

Mr. Kolokolov said Mr. Aziz and Mr. Kozyrev also

discussed the U.N. resolution requiring Iraq to recognise Kuwait's territorial integrity, but did not give details.

St. Petersburg television showed footage of a motorcade of black limousines arriving at a government residence on the Neva River. The report said Kozyrev and Mr. Aziz met for two hours there.

Mr. Kozyrev, who arrived in Russia's second-largest city from Belgrade, told Interfax only that his trip was linked to an "assignment from President Boris Yeltsin."

The Soviet Union had numerous advisers stationed in Iran before the Gulf war. Today, many Russian hard-liners view Iraq as Moscow's natural ally and demand the lifting of U.N. sanctions.

Officials say Russia has lost billions of dollars because of the embargo since Iraq owes Russia a large Soviet-era debt for weapons and industrial equipment.

EU 'committed to help Palestinians'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union (EU), has committed more than \$100 million to infrastructure building in the autonomous Palestinian territories, and is studying several other projects, EU diplomats said Friday.

The European Commission is in charge of channelling aid worth 500 million European currency units (about \$750 million) to the economic development of the territories. The amount represents the collective contribution of the 12 members of the European Union and was announced even before international donors met in Washington on Oct. 1 to pledge aid to support the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord signed on Sept. 13.

The EU pledge was incorporated into the overall aid of \$2.4 billion promised to the Palestinians during the Washington conference.

Over and above the collective aid, individual EU governments are extending bilateral aid to the Palestinians. No definite figure was available, but EU diplomats estimated the amount to be more than \$300 million.

A statement issued by the European Commission delegation in Jordan listed some of the projects for which it has already committed funds under the broader pledge. These included:

— \$15.6 million for the construction of a hospital in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip;

— \$50 million for housing projects in Khan Yunis, Nuseirat, and Tulkarem in the West Bank;

— \$3.2 million for a solid waste clean-up campaign in Rafah and Gaza City;

— \$18 million for the rehabilitation and renewal of the Rafah sewage system; and

— \$18 million for financing of the running costs of Palestinian universities and community colleges.

PLO Chairman Yasser

Arafat, who made a triumphant entry to the autonomous territories on July 1, visited the EU-financed Khan Yunis hospital project on July 3.

In a meeting between Mr. Arafat and foreign diplomats and representatives in Gaza on July 2, Thomas Dupla, the European Commission representative in the occupied territories, "illustrated the European Union's strong commitment to assisting the Palestinian territories by highlighting explicitly" some of the projects that the EU is financing there, the commission statement said.

The statement said by the end of 1994, the European Commission would have committed another \$95 million, which is \$35 million more than the European Union had originally pledged for this year.

"The presence of a commission representative in the occupied territories has helped things a lot," said a senior European diplomat in Jordan. "It gives close, firsthand familiarity with the particular features of

the Palestinian economy and infrastructure and helps determining priorities," added the diplomat, who preferred anonymity.

While the EU aid is coordinated with the World Bank, which serves as the secretariat for the \$2.4 billion pledged in Washington, the Europeans are known to follow a largely independent line in dispensing funds to rebuilding Palestinian infrastructure and economy.

"Transparency and accountability (as demanded by the World Bank in utilisation of aid to the Palestinians) are indeed important for us too," said the European diplomat. "But our physical presence in the territories helps us monitor the situation and ensure that the funds are used for the purposes they are intended for."

Another European diplomat said: "Our relationship with the Palestinians and the entire area in general precedes the World Bank or anyone else. As such, we have our way of doing things."

Sanaa's next battle — cementing unity

DUBAI (AFP) — Having emerged victorious Thursday from two months of bloodshed with the secessionist south, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh now faces a new battle — to cement national unity after the storm.

Much will depend on his future attitude towards the south. "If he chooses to go along the path of repression, national unity will never be effective," one diplomat urging dialogue told AFP from Sanaa.

Mr. Saleh's position depends largely on the position of the southern army and whether it accepts defeat. One western observer said. Even unification in 1990 failed to cement a union of northern and southern forces.

Northern army officers earlier said their troops had arrested thousands of southern soldiers as they advanced on the southern capital Aden.

"They gave themselves up by the thousands," said Colonel Ali Salem Mohammad. Lieutenant Ali Ali Hass added southern prisoners were being held in several military camps, including Al Anad, 90 kilometres north of

Aden. Col. Hass said the prisoners would be questioned and then released.

The SABA news agency meanwhile reported that the airport of Rayyane, the second southern city which fell into northern forces' hands on Wednesday, had been reopened and was "functioning normally" following repairs.

"Life in Aden has returned to normal," SABA added, with the city having been "purged" of rebel elements. An absence of military integration and deep-seated political differences largely fuelled the outbreak of civil war on May 5.

Mr. Saleh succeeded in putting down the southern rebellion by force, as he had intended, with little interference from the international community. Both the United Nations and Arab states merely limited themselves to calls for an immediate ceasefire.

Southern attempts to gain international recognition for their "democratic republic," which they proclaimed on May 20, fell on deaf ears. The Gulf states, along with Egypt and Syria, merely threatened Sanaa with

"appropriate measures" if the conflict continued.

The long quest for national unity in Yemen, now seemingly all but restored by force of arms, has a long and tumultuous history.

Hopes which arose with the merging of north and south on May 22, 1990, were left in tatters with the outbreak of this year's conflict, sparked by southerners' discontent they were the poor relations in a state led by northern supremo Saleh.

The nightmare of failed unity already had a precedent, two previous unification accords having foundered in 1972 and 1979.

The division of the country into two halves goes back to the British occupation of Aden in 1839, at a time when the rest of the country was in the thrall of the Ottoman empire. Between 1903 and 1905, an Anglo-Turkish commission drew up a border between Yemen and the territory of Aden.

In February 1934, Britain recognised Yemen as an independent state under the leadership of Imam Yahya, then proclaimed Aden a royal colony and its hinterland a protectorate.

The 1962 overthrow of

Yahya sparked an armed revolt against the British in 1963. On Nov. 30, 1967, south Yemen gained independence and a Marxist regime took power.

With the end of the civil war in the north that same year, both regimes said they favoured union, but this came to nothing.

In September 1972, both sides engaged in a month's armed conflict, before the Arab League stepped in to broker a peace accord, which was coolly received by the pro-Saudis in the north. Further skirmishes erupted in 1974.

In February 1979, border clashes escalated into open warfare, prior to mediation by Syria and Iraq and other Arab states.

A month later, the two Yemeni presidents signed a unification accord in Kuwait, but this again came to nothing.

In January 1986, the south was rocked by a failed coup, before Ali Salem Al Beidh took office. In July, 1987, Mr. Beidh, general secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party, visited Sanaa, finally paving the way for unification in May 1990.

Arab dealer sues S. Africa firm for commission for Iraq arms

NICOSIA (R) — A Cyprus-based Palestinian arms dealer said on Friday he was suing South African arms giant Armscor over unpaid commissions for the secret sale of weapons to Iraq during the Iraq-Iran war.

"I'm suing Armscor, owned by the government of South Africa, for conspiracy and fraud and in Guernsey I'm suing another arms company for breach of contract," Walid Saffouri told Reuters in a telephone interview from the coastal town of Limassol.

Mr. Saffouri, who calls himself a "technology promoter" and not an arms dealer, said he had documents to prove he is owed \$495 million in unpaid commission for secret deals with the Iraqis during the war, which ended in 1989.

In Johannesburg an Armscor spokesman said it was being sued by Mr. Saffouri but refused to comment on the amount involved.

"Armscor did no business with Iraq prior to the (1991) Gulf war. We are contesting claims for damages instituted by the claimant (Saffouri). Because the matter is sub-judice we cannot comment further," Armscor spokesman Martin Baffour said.

Mr. Saffouri said he expected a trial to take place sometime in 1995 in both South Africa and island of Guernsey, where one of his offshore companies is registered.

"I have full faith in South Africa's judiciary system. I also trust the new administration of Nelson Mandela who are fair and correct people," he added.

Mr. Saffouri, who set up an offshore transport company in Limassol in 1984, said the Iraqi deals were done through a Guernsey-registered company he owns. "My company in Cyprus, the Silver Falcon Holdings, has absolutely nothing to do with it. The arms had nothing to do with the Gulf war either," he added, referring to Iraq's invasion in 1990 of Kuwait.

The official registrar's office in Nicosia told Reuters a company registered under the name Silver Falcon Industries had been dissolved but Mr. Saffouri said the company was re-registered as Silver Falcon Holdings.

He also said that he agreed to sell the arms to Iraq because in 1983-84 the Iraqis were advancing and Iraq was running out of ammunition. "As an Arab nationalist, we were all worried. The Iraqis were advancing... we didn't want the Iraqis to take over the whole Middle East," he added.

South Africa's Weekly Mail newspaper said that according to court documents South Africa supplied Baghdad with weapons valued at \$4.5 billion during the Iraq-Iran war.

Armscor's world-beating, G-5 Howitzers were among

weapons supplied to the Iraqis which the paper said also included military electronics, missile upgrade kits and cluster bombs.

Mr. Saffouri is claiming 11 per cent commission on the sales.

The Weekly Mail said Mr. Saffouri's firm was set up in the early 1980s to formalise an agreement with another Guernsey-registered company, International Technology Operations (ITO), run by former Rhodesians who developed arms for Ian Smith's Rhodesia.

South Africa announced earlier this week it was selling long-range artillery guns worth \$120 million to Oman in the first public arms sale since a U.N. weapons embargo was lifted.

A statement by arms maker Denel, formed in 1992 to take over the manufacturing and arms sales of Armscor, said the deal included ammunition, spares and logistical support for the G-6 self-propelled artillery guns but did not say how many of the weapons were involved.

The G-6, based on the G-5 that was developed with the help of Canadian scientist Gerald Bull, who was assassinated while helping Iraq build long-range "super-guns," is the best of its kind in the world.

The U.N. embargo was lifted following historic all-race elections at the end of April.

Iraq passes new laws against alcohol

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq has banned the sale of alcohol in clubs, hotels, restaurants and tourist facilities and ordered the closure of bars and discos in the mostly secular Muslim country, state-run radio reported Friday.

A decree issued by the Iraqi Revolution Command Council (RCC) and signed Thursday by President Saddam Hussein provides for at least a year in jail for first offenders and three years for a repeat offence.

Premises used for the sale of alcohol will be confiscated, said the report.

The ordinance will take effect 15 days after its publication in the official gazette, said the broadcast. It did not say whether the gazette had been published or provide any further details.

The Iraqi government is thought to be curbing extravagant lifestyles of the elite in an attempt to placate the suffering majority. Most of Iraq's 18 million people are struggling through economic hardships caused by international sanctions.

The sanctions were imposed by the United Nations shortly after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990 and include a ban on the export of oil, Baghdad's main foreign currency earner.

A similar crackdown on the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages was made in September when an Iraqi embassy spokesman in Jordan said the administration was trying to force Muslims to abide by the law and Islamic teachings.

The decree by the RCC withdrew licences of bars and restaurant owners selling alcohol and ordered discos, cabarets and nightclubs to close by the deadline.

"The RCC has decided to close bars, discos and nightclubs and withdraw licences of shops where all kinds of alcoholic drinks are offered for," Iraqi newspapers said.

Settlers rampage through Hebron after killings

(Continued from page 1)

he would soon convene the Palestine National Council in Gaza City to revise articles of the PLO's covenant.

Mr. Rabin, speaking to reporters upon his return to Israel, downplayed the idea of withdrawing Israeli troops from the West Bank towns and villages and holding elections there anytime soon. Mr. Arafat had called for a withdrawal by next month.

Mr. Rabin said negotiations will be protracted and should for now focus instead on the more limited goal on granting West Bank residents "early empowerment" in five civilian areas — health, education, agriculture, tourism and taxes.

"Whoever wants any movement in the coming few months should focus on early empowerment," Mr. Rabin said. Troop withdrawal and extending full autonomy in the West Bank "is much more complicated" than in Gaza and Jericho, he said.

"There are many more Israeli settlements, many more military installations and many more complicated security considerations that we have to take into account," he said.

A joint Israeli-Palestinian communiqué issued Thursday said their negotiations would resume Monday in Cairo.

Israel said in the joint communiqué it would respond seriously to a Palestinian request to release imprisoned women. Mr. Arafat has also pressed repeatedly for the release of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, 58, the spiritual leader of Hamas.

Getting him free would enable Mr. Arafat to show that peace talks benefit all Palestinians, not just his followers. The bulk of over 4,000 prisoners released have been from his Fatah faction.

Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio Thursday he might free Sheikh Yassin "if he would leave the region for 10 years and tell all those he can influence to refrain from terror and violence."

Those conditions were the first time an Israeli leader mentioned exile for Sheikh Yassin, serving a life term for ordering the killing of four suspected Palestinian in-



Israeli officers carry the coffin of fellow UN killed in an ambush by resistance fighters in Hebron during his funeral in the Mount Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem. Elgarbi was

Vatican envoy starts talks here

(Continued from page 1)

this process of dialogue, cooperation and fraternity among the peoples of the Middle East region."

The trip marks the first official talks between the Vatican and Jordan since they established diplomatic relations in March.

"Monsignor Tauran will certainly talk about the Holy City of Jerusalem, so dear to the Christian and Muslim citizens of Jordan," a Vatican statement said.

The Vatican wants international guarantees to protect Jerusalem as a city sacred to Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

The Vatican, which established full diplomatic relations with Israel last month, has been strengthening its ties with the Arab World since it began working toward full relations with the Jewish state in July 1992.

The Vatican is seeking to formalise its relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Trilateral committee to meet

(Continued from page 1)

the Red Sea coast.

"We hope these negotiations will take place alternately in Israel and Jordan," Mr. Rabin said.

Referring to his talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Paris, Mr. Rabin noted that three Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) commissions would be set up.

One would examine issues still unresolved when the May 4 Cairo agreement was signed launching Palestinian

self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

The second commission would try to speed up the transfer of civilian powers to the new Palestinian authority in areas such as health, education, tourism and taxation. Financial matters and organising elections would also be discussed.

The third commission would prepare for four-way talks between Israel, the PLO, Egypt and Jordan on the issue of Palestinians displaced by the Middle East war in 1967.

JORDAN TELEVISION

1-11-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Coup De Bleu Dams L'Estelle
17:11 Fantomette
17:30 A documentary programme
18:30 News in French
18:45 L'Estelle
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:08 World Cup Soccer Match
21:00 The Festival of Bel Air
21:30 The Campbells
22:00 News in English
22:30 World Cup Football Match

PRAYER TIMES

01:00 Fajr
05:32 (Sunni) Dhuhr
12:41 Dhuhr
16:21 Asr
19:30 Maghrib
21:22 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
St. George's Church
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 624591
St. John the Baptist Church Tel. 624592
Church of the Holy Spirit Tel. 624593
Church of the Holy Trinity Tel. 624594
Church of the Holy Eucharist Tel. 624595
Church of the Holy Communion Tel. 624596
Church of the Holy Sacrament Tel. 624597
Church of the Holy Mysteries Tel. 624598
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Queen opens art exhibition

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor, patron of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, Friday opened the exhibition "Arab Artists in France" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

The exhibition displays works by 15 Arab artists living in Paris, which incorporates various cultural influences bridging East and West.

The exhibition, which is the group's first in Jordan, was organised by the Royal Society of Fine Arts in cooperation with Royal Jordanian, the national air carrier.

The society, established in 1979, is a pioneering institution and one of its kind in Jordan to develop Arab and Islamic art.

A non-profit, independent, non-governmental

organisation, the society is involved in compiling a data bank on contemporary artists in the Islamic world, translating and publishing books and research work on the different branches of Islamic culture, in addition to holding seminars, symposiums and workshops pertaining to art.

The society is represented by the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, which has expanded since its establishment in 1980 to include over 1,445 works of art from different Islamic countries.

Queen Noor met with the artists and expressed her admiration for their distinguished contribution to Arab and Islamic Art.

The Queen stressed the importance of artistic interaction and exchange to enrich cultural awareness.

A promoter of Arab and Islamic art, Queen Noor has opened 50 exhibitions at the Jordan National Gallery as well as various international exhibitions.

As honorary board chair of the International Council for Women in the Arts, Queen Noor opened an exhibition of Arab women artists in Washington D.C. earlier this year. The exhibition, "Forces of Change: Artists of the Arab World," displayed the work of 70 women from the Arab World and demonstrated women's growing self-awareness and creative forms of expression.

Queen Noor was received by Princess Wijdan Ali, president of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, members of the board and the director of the gallery.



King Talal remembered

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the 22nd anniversary of the passing away of King Talal Ben Abdullah, His Majesty King Hussein Thursday visited the tomb of the late monarch, recited verses of the Holy Koran and laid a wreath on the tomb.

Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Crown Prince Hassan as well as Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and senior officials also visited the late King's tomb.

King Talal who was born in Mecca in 1909, received his military training in the United Kingdom and was the first Jordanian army officer to graduate from Sandhurst Military College in 1939.

The late King acceded to the throne on Sept. 6, 1951 and began to work towards achieving the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt which was led by his grand-

father Sharif Hussein Ben Ali of Hijaz.

King Talal started his rule by introducing reforms to the Jordanian Constitution, but illness prevented him from pursuing his work. He abdicated on August 11, 1952.

The late King is remembered for his efforts in developing the Armed Forces and was instrumental in creating the National Guard, a force that was used to defend the homeland.

King Talal took part in the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 as an officer fighting alongside the Jordanian Armed Forces in defence of the Arab land and Palestine.

King Talal was married to the late Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who died on April 26, this year.

New JPA members sworn in, executive elections scheduled

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 11 new members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) sworn in Thursday before Information Minister Jawad Anani are entitled to take part in the next week's JPA elections and to nominate themselves for board membership like any other member, according to JPA President Suleiman Qudah.

Mr. Qudah told the Jordan Times Friday that the new JPA members had been accepted by the JPA board and the swearing in was the last part of the usual formalities required for official membership.

The new JPA members are Nabil Al Sharif, Jihad Al Momani, Abdullah Hijazi, Audeh Tawil, Hani Husami, Khaled Hilal, Taleh Hayasat, Imad Hajjaj, Mohammad Abu Arqoub, Majed Khudeiri and Hisham Hamidieh.

The swearing-in came one week before the 257-member JPA general assembly meets at the Am-

man Chamber of Industry to elect a new president and a nine-member board for a two-year term.

The incumbent president, Mr. Qudah, is running for reelection. The seat is also contested by

three other JPA members: Khaled Mahadin, a former columnist of Al Ra'i daily, Fakhri Kassar, a writer in Jordanian weekly magazines, and Ahmad Hisban, a writer at Al Dustour daily.

Anani urges rational reporting

At the JPA membership swearing-in ceremony Thursday, Minister of Information Jawad Anani urged the journalists to tackle domestic and regional affairs rationally.

"We are approaching a very sensitive and dangerous stage, requiring from all of us reason and logic, particularly on the political level," said Dr. Anani.

The coming Jordanian-Israeli negotiations over borders and water issues will be difficult because they will involve intricate technical issues as well as political topics, he said.

Dr. Anani added that the negotiations, due to begin in 10 days, will not lead to the conclusion of a Jordanian peace treaty with Israel.

The talks, which are to be held in Wadi Araba aim at securing Jordanian national rights, and the government hopes it can broadcast the talks live for the benefit of the public, according to Dr. Anani.

He told the journalists "we look forward to having objective dialogue, free of sentiments and unproductive controversy, in our media, taking care to place the national and pan-Arab interests above all other considerations."

The Ministry of Information has made arrangements for media coverage of the negotiations with facilities for local and foreign journalists who will make use of a special centre equipped with telephones, telex and facsimile services, Dr. Anani added.

Artists return to 'point of origin'

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is no secret that during the latter half of this century, many of the Arab World's best and brightest artists left their homelands to settle and work in the apparently greener pastures of Europe and the West.

These artists left for a variety of reasons, including political, financial and even personal reasons, according to one such artist, Mahdi Moutachar, of Iraq.

"However, one major reason is the distortion which Arab artists find between their actual work and how their native society views that work," said the artist, who himself calls Paris his home after emigrating there 27 years ago.

"And people who feel they have no place in a society go somewhere else."

Many have lamented the exodus, which they see as draining the Arab World of some of its foremost and highly talented creators and visionaries.

In a response to this adversity is the new exhibition at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

A relatively muted display, "Arab Artists in France" opens the gallery's upper floor to the work of some 15 of the more than 100 expatriate Arab artists of various national origins who currently live in France.

For some of the participating artists, according to gallery director Hassan Hijazi, the exhibition marks the first time they have set foot in an Arab country for more than 20 years.

Modest as the exhibition may be, Mr. Hijazi emphasised to the Jordan Times that for him, "this is one of



Painting by Mona Zaalouk of Egypt

the most important exhibitions we have done in a long, long time."

Short of bringing back to Arab soil the generations of Arab artists who long ago left their homeland, Mr. Hijazi said that he has high hopes that the exhibition will lead to a new series of displays in Amman which will bring many more immigrant artists' work "back to their point of origin" to be seen by audiences of their brothers and sisters, and to open up a dialogue and interchange between these artists and their native cultural communities.

"There people have done work and are waiting for a response from us," Mr. Hijazi said. "We want to show them that they aren't forgotten and people here appreciate their work, as many of them do not realise that people in their countries really do want them back."

But the issue of the expatriate Arab artists and their departure should not be addressed as being either negative or positive, one of the exhibition's artists told the Jordan Times.

"There are some in our native countries who condemn us, and believe we did something quite wrong to leave," said Sakher Farzat of Syria. "But all we did was to leave a smaller circle for a bigger international one, which we, as artists, belong to — we all belong to this earth, especially in this new age of global communication."

More than politics or economics, the urge to travel and explore new places in the world is simply in an artist's blood, said Mr. Moutachar, who is also participating in the exhibition.

He pointed out as proof of his words the many American artists and visionaries of the 19th and 20th centuries who left the relative comfort of that country for other lands.

"It is quite simple, really," said another participant in the exhibit, Algerian artist Mohammed Aksoh, said "All the time I searched for a real family with whom I can communicate — I found it among the artists of Paris and settled there."

The exhibition lasts until August 7.

Writers postpone meeting on 'normalisation'

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Writers Society (JWS) Friday was forced to postpone until July 22 an exceptional meeting originally scheduled to define its policy on the issue of normalisation with Israel because of lack of a quorum.

The JWS general assembly, however, suggested to continue with an informal meeting of the members gathered at JWS headquarters in Jabal Weibdeh, and asked its members "unofficially" to formulate their position on "any member who attends a conference with Israeli delegates," as well as on the society's position against "any (JWS) member who communicates with the Israeli media."

The call for the meeting followed an uproar by some JWS members created by their anger at the attendance of Jordanian women at a Marrakesh conference on Mediterranean women last May that included the participation of Israeli women.

JWS President Mu'nes Razzaz said the society intends to conduct similar meetings, in addition to that scheduled for July 22, every three or four months to discuss any sensitive issues that concern the society, adding that "our aim at the society is free democracy and dialogue regarding normalisation."

At the beginning of the

meeting, Zuleikha Abu Rishah, who was singled out and criticised by the society for her presence at the Marrakesh conference, defended herself against the accusations lodged by her fellow JWS members, saying that "there is no article in the internal law of the JWS that arbitrarily allows for the dismissal of a member, and that is why this meeting was organised."

The JWS, of which Ms. Abu Rishah is a member, sent her a letter condemning her for attending the Marrakesh conference and demanding that she apologise in writing.

Ms. Abu Rishah said the JWS administrative committee condemned her without listening to her side of the story. Furthermore, she said, the society took its decision after a personal telephone call between herself and Mr. Razzaz.

According to Ms. Abu Rishah, upon her return from the meeting in Morocco, "he (Mr. Razzaz) just asked me to send a copy of the invitation (to the Marrakesh conference), and this violates the society's internal codes which state that if the society intends to punish a member he/she should be notified in person."

She added that the society also leaked the condemnation letter addressed to her to the media before it had distributed copies of it to all JWS members.

"The society launched a campaign to intentionally slander my reputation. How could the society send this warning without listening to me. Therefore, I demand that the society withdraw its condemnation and warning, and send me a written apology," Ms. Abu Rishah said.

Ms. Abu Rishah's comments drew heated discussions among the attendees, and she was obstructed during the discussion by a fellow writer who verbally attacked her saying that she had no right to say what she was saying and that her time (on the floor) was up.

Mr. Razzaz announced that "the administrative committee's decision (in the Abu Rishah case) is not final."

JWS member Ghassan Abdul Khalek said that postponing the meeting is a good opportunity to study the issue better, "since this is a sensitive and serious problem that should be reviewed carefully and with a larger number of members."

Suhair Tel, another JWS member, who agreed that normalisation with Israel was a dangerous process, but said that it was a process that has been under way for more than 40 years, said "we have had several members who met with Israeli persons in the past and the issue was never put to discussion."

She called on the JWS administration to withdraw the warning against Ms. Abu Rishah.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURE

★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Arab Current Thought and the Forms of Arab Renaissance" by Dr. Al Tayib Tizini at Abdul Hameed Shoosha Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Arab Artists in France" at the Jordan National Museum for Fine Arts, Jabal Lawweh, off Al Muntazah Circle (Tel. 630128).
- ★ Sculpture and ceramic exhibition by Iraqi artist Laith Al Turk at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheima (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Painting exhibition by artist Fakhr Farzat at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).
- ★ Exhibition by plastic artist Khairi Harzallah at the Jordanian Plastic Association in Shmeisani (Tel. 69914).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Bishara Al Najjar at the Orient Gallery for Fine Arts, Gardens Str. (Tel. 698513).
- ★ Painting exhibition by Iraqi painters "The Pioneers Group" at Al Ain Art Gallery — Wadi Sagra (Tel. 644451).
- ★ Exhibition on the development of "Le Louvre" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjouri at Al Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720677).

Exploring the potential of Jordan's 'natural clinic'

By Jennifer Hamarneh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Psoriasis sufferer Sandra Gibbons minces no words when she talks about this disease physically and psychologically affecting, she says, two-three per cent of the world's population. To her "it is a killer disease," but there is relief to be found and Ms. Gibbons says it is here in our own backyard, at the Dead Sea.

Although the therapeutic, even "curative" powers of the Dead Sea and its mineral-rich environment have been lauded throughout time, exploitation of this "natural clinic" in Jordan has been limited.

Ms. Gibbons, a self-educated Dead Sea specialist in the health benefits of that environment is here on a visit from England, where she operates her own natural dermatology clinic, to study how Jordan could

promote "health tourism," and in so doing help many people who suffer various ailments that medical science has been unable to relieve.

Ms. Gibbons is candid. She acknowledges that psoriasis, a recurring disease characterised by eruptions on the skin of red circular patches covered with dry, silvery scales, has thus far proved to be incurable, but she maintains that a two to four-week Dead Sea regime of sun-bathing, swimming (or floating) and mud packs can provide physical and, just as importantly, psychological relief to the most disheartened of psoriasis sufferers.

Most often dermatologists prescribe steroids to try to bring the condition under control, but Ms. Gibbons warns of the controversies over steroid treatments and the side-effects associated with their use, particularly over an extended period. Steroids interfere in the super renal

glands and they are the source of hormones that control the salt in the body.

Ms. Gibbons has met with officials, including Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan and Secretary General Ghassan Mufleh, to discuss ideas about promoting health tourism in Jordan.

In operating her own clinic and referring clients to health resorts on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea for several years, Ms. Gibbons said many clients began inquiring about available treatment on the Jordanian side, and so she decided to come see for herself.

On her visit to the Dead Sea Hotel and Spa, the first and totode the only facility to offer Dead Sea therapy treatments on Jordan's shoreline, Ms. Gibbons said she was delighted to find that "on the eastern shore one is actually able to swim. The density of the salt content on the western shore makes swimming all but impossible, she ex-

plained.

She said she found excellent climatic factors at the sea which can prove to be an integral part of the promotion of health tourism in Jordan. For example, "the sun is unique," she said, because most of the more harmful ultraviolet rays are not known to penetrate to the earth's surface at the Dead Sea (the lowest point on earth), allowing patients to maximise the benefits of sun treatment.

She said the waters of the Dead Sea offer a high concentration of salt, and, in the cases of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, this helps in opening the pores of the skin and releasing the toxins that affect these conditions over the period of treatment.

The mud, dug up from under the sea's surface, contains high levels of sulfur, recognised as nature's "beauty mineral" because it keeps the complexion clear and youthful. This

mineral is absorbed into the blood stream and contributes to relieving several skin disorders such as psoriasis, eczema and dermatitis. Sulfur is also important in the treatment of arthritis. The level of cystine, a sulfur-containing amino acid in arthritic patients, is usually much lower than normal.

"With the right expertise, much of which is already available in Jordan, the country can offer more facilities which could have the potential of relieving sufferers of many diseases," she saw the proximity of Jordan's numerous tourist and archaeological sites as adding to the attraction of a "health vacation."

Ms. Gibbons is the author of "Beating Psoriasis the Natural Way," which features Dead Sea therapy. She said the book will soon be translated into Arabic and feature the benefits of treatment in Jordan.

World journalists group leaves today

Preparations for Amman conference under way

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A three-member team from the International Journalists Organisation (IJO) led by Gerard Gatnot, Saturday concludes a week-long visit to Jordan which was described by Jordan Press Association (JPA) President Suleiman Qudah as successful.

Apart from announcing a IJO decision to hold its 12th general conference in Amman in January, 1995, Mr. Gatnot and the JPA discussed the prospect of establishing a regional centre for the organisation in Amman to serve the objectives of the media in the

Near East, to Mr. Qudah told the Jordan Times Friday.

Referring to preparations for the coming conference, Mr. Qudah said the two sides agreed to convene the meeting in mid-January with delegates representing the 120 IJO member states along with 30 members from the organisation's general secretariat and 20 from its executive board in addition to 10 delegates representing regional and international organisations.

The January meeting, he said, will elect a new IJO president and executive board for a four-year term and will chart plans for the organisation's activities

during that period.

Mr. Qudah said he has been invited by Mr. Gatnot to Prague, where the IJO is based next month to follow upon discussions concerning the conference and review a plan for the establishment of the organisation's regional centre in Amman.

His Majesty King Hussein, at an audience with the IJO team attended by the JPA president Thursday, welcomed the organisation's decision to hold its coming meeting in Amman.

King Hussein said Jordan would offer the organisation all facilities and assistance to ensure that its meeting is a success.

Workshop ends calling for women's participation in decision-making

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The two-day workshop held to revise a draft paper to be presented at the Fourth World's Conference on Women in 1995, Thursday ended its discussions on the status of women in Jordan, called on women to participate in the decision-making process and formed a committee to finalise the draft paper.

The two-day workshop which was headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, called for the improvement of women's status in the fields of communications, education, women's rights, women and violence, women and poverty, women in rural areas.

The meeting also stressed on the importance of women's involvement in environmental protection on and that they should participate in decision-

making, especially women in rural areas and small towns.

The workshop also called for establishing a databank of knowledge to exchange experiences with advanced countries to find the best ways to utilise the talents of women in helping to save the environment and to protect natural resources.

Organised jointly by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the National Committee for Women, the workshop was designed as a part of the various national and regional activities aimed at finalising Jordan's national plan of action which will culminate in a regional preparatory meeting for the 1995 conference to be held in Beijing.

The resulting document will be presented to ESCWA member states by

an expert group for adoption in a joint official press conference to be held on July 27, headed by Princess Basma. There, the Princess will answer any questions related to the paper, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The expert group meeting on the regional plan of action for Arab women will be held in Amman on November 8, to be followed by the inter-governmental regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World's Conference on Women, November 9-10.

After adoption by member states, the regional platform of action will be submitted to the secretary-general of the conference in New York, to be used as an input in the formulation of a global platform of action to be presented at the Beijing conference.

Panama's reversal on Haitians will not change policy — U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. administration said it would not change its policy on Haitians after Panama's reversal on the issue.

"We will continue forward with our policy," said William Gray, President Bill Clinton's special adviser on Haiti.

Mr. Gray spoke to reporters shortly after Panamanian President Guillermo Endara announced that Panama had a change of heart about use of its country as a safe haven for Haitians.

Mr. Gray said Panama had agreed in principle to provide shelter for Haitians, joining Argentina and Dominica. He said the United States is talking to other countries in its search for additional safe havens.

Panama had offered to provide shelter for 10,000 Haitians, its withdrawal was a clear setback for the administration, which has been struggling to manage the burgeoning refugee problem in the Caribbean.

"Obviously we're disappointed," said White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers, who was travelling with Mr. Clinton in El Paso.

Mr. Myers said Vice President Al Gore called Mr. Clinton after the president's

plane landed in Naples, Italy, to tell him of Panama's decision. Mr. Endara had phoned Mr. Gore earlier Thursday to tell him of his government's change of mind, Ms. Myers said.

Before Mr. Endara's announcement, the administration had said it planned to send 800 Americans to Panama to begin working on logistics and security for providing the Haitians shelter there.

"All plans to deploy military personnel in support of that operation are on hold," the Pentagon said after Mr. Endara's announcement.

The Pentagon is planning to expand at Guantanamo Bay naval base in Cuba to 20,000 from the current 12,500. More than 10,000 Haitians are being given shelter at Guantanamo, and another 3,200 were aboard ships on their way there Thursday.

A total of 15,600 Haitians have fled Haiti by boat since June 16.

The United States had made it clear that it was willing to underwrite the costs of providing shelter for Haitians in Panama. The proposal included use of U.S. military facilities in Panama.

Mr. Gray refused comment on why Panama spurned the United States but other officials blamed internal politics in Panama.

On Tuesday, the administration, attempting to stem the surge of boat people, announced that the United States would no longer grant entry to Haitians who attempt to flee the country by boat.

Boat people rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard are to be housed at safe haven sites until democracy is restored. Guantanamo is the only such site at present, and Mr. Gray said it was not clear when other sites will become available.

Gray said the policy of accepting Haitians who apply at U.S. offices inside Haiti for safe haven remains in effect. To gain entry to the United States, those who apply must convince authorities they have a well-founded fear of persecution.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon Thursday dispatched another ship, the USS Pensacola, to help transport Haitians picked up at sea, spokesman Dennis Boxx said.

A U.S. Air Force EC-130 aircraft has been broadcasting messages into Haiti this week to encourage Haitians not to take to the sea, Mr. Boxx said. But the impact has seemed marginal.

The Pentagon declined comment on published reports that U.S. army and navy commandos in recent days had secretly rehearsed a plan to invade Haiti.

When asked about the report, Mr. Boxx did not deny it.

"With the president indicating that the military option is still there, we clearly need to be in a position to be ready should he ask us" to invade, Mr. Boxx said. "We conduct exercises and we plan for a variety of situations on a routine basis, and that is precisely what we need to do and what we'll continue to do."

Panama's refusal to accept the refugees dealt another blow to the president's floundering policy, adding more confusion to what critics charge is his "flip-flop" stance on Haiti and threatening to increase the pressure for military action to oust the junta that overthrew President Jean-Bertrand Aristide 33 months ago.

"My gut sense is that this will push the military answer back on the front burner," said defense analyst John Steinbruner of the Brookings Institution.

Mr. Gray again refused to rule out the use of U.S. force to dislodge Haiti's military leaders who so far have outlasted increasingly harsh economic sanctions and financial isolation.

"The president has made it clear, and we continue to make it clear, that the military option is still on the table," he said.



Henri Emmanuelli, head of the French Socialist Party (PS), looks at reporters during a press conference in Paris. Mr. Emmanuelli announced that the PS will continue to press charges, and will demand the creation of an investigative commission to look into alleged spying against it by two French internal security chiefs (AFP photo)

2 French officials ousted, but Socialists file suit in spy case

PARIS (AP) — Facing growing outrage, France's conservative government has ousted two police officials for the eavesdropping of a Socialist Party meeting. But leftists kept up their attack and filed a complaint.

The incident, also condemned by investigating magistrates and politicians on the right, served as a rallying point for a decimated Socialist Party trying to rebuild in time for presidential elections next spring.

"The young people of this country don't know yet, but when the right is in power, liberty retreats," said party chief Henri Emmanuelli. Even before the results of a police investigation of the June 19 incident, Interior Minister Charles Pasqua sought to limit the political damage and removed the head of police intelligence as well as a lower-ranking commissioner.

The intelligence chief, Claude Bardon, would be reassigned at a later date, said Mr. Pasqua, who also announced a reorganization of the intelligence service.

But Mr. Pasqua denied Socialist charges of Watergate-style spying. "There was no political espionage," he said.

Mr. Pasqua attributed the spying incident to the "individual initiative" of an officer who sat in a conference centre security room equipped with a speaker on which he could hear the Socialists' deliberations.

The eavesdropping took place during a divisive party conference in which Mr. Emmanuelli was chosen to succeed the more-moderate ex-Premier Michel Rocard as head of the party.

Mr. Emmanuelli described Mr. Pasqua's explanation as "unconvincing and ridiculous," called the incident "an attack on political freedom" and demanded a parliamentary investigation.

He and six members of the party's National Council filed a complaint with judicial investigators, asking them to determine whether the law guaranteeing free political activity was broken.

Martin Malvy, head of the Socialist faction in the conservative-dominated National Assembly, said Mr. Pasqua's ousting of the two police officials was an attempt to "contain a controversy that could prove embarrassing to the minister."

"In punishing these officials, he confirms the gravity of an affair that he was minimizing yesterday," said Mr. Malvy, who noted that Mr. Pasqua acted without awaiting results of an internal police investigation.

Bernard Pons, head of the largest conservative faction in the National Assembly, praised Mr. Pasqua for acting swiftly and said the eavesdropping "was worrisome and serious for democracy."

The Magistrates' Union denounced the "dangerous slips" in police operations, saying police intelligence "are not submitted to any prior control and their activities are not answerable to any authority outside their hierarchy."

But the main union of senior police officers protested the ousting of Mr. Bardon and Commissioner Bertrand Michelin, saying they were merely following orders and were being used as scapegoats.

Mr. Bardon, 56, headed several high-profile investigations over the past 20 years, including a probe which cracked the Direct Action terrorist group in 1987 after a series of bombings.

2 soldiers injured in Belfast attack

BELFAST (Agencies) — Suspected Irish Republican guerrillas fired a rocket at an armoured military vehicle patrolling Belfast Friday, badly injuring two soldiers.

Both men suffered serious facial injuries from the rocket, fired with a command wire from waste ground by the road in West Belfast which the security forces were patrolling.

Security sources said the attack bore all the hallmarks of Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

The incident came a day after British heir-to-the throne Prince Charles paid a two-day visit to province, travelling into West Belfast.

"Targeting a patrol just serves as a reminder. The message is we're still here," one security source said.

In another part of the city early Friday a Chinese

woman was shot and seriously injured while delivering a take-away meal to a house. It was not known who was responsible.

She was hit in the chest by one of three shots when a lone gunman ambushed her as she arrived outside a house in North Belfast shortly after midnight.

Police said the woman was lured to the house by a bogus call. The occupants had not ordered a delivery and were asleep in bed. The woman's 10-year-old daughter, who was sitting in the back of her mother's car when the gunman struck, was unhurt.

Prince Charles condemned terrorism in Northern Ireland, and praised the courage of ordinary people during the second day of a visit to the troubled province Thursday.

"Terrorism will never prevail against the democratic freedoms of Northern Ireland, nor will violence ever be accepted as any measure

of loyalty or faithfulness to the crown or to the state," said the prince, whose great uncle Lord Louis Mountbatten was killed in 1979 by an IRA bomb.

The Irish Republican Army is the main Republican terrorist group in Northern Ireland.

Also during the day the prince crossed the so-called "peace line" which separates Belfast's Catholic and Protestant communities, in a symbolic gesture of hopes for reconciliation in the province.

The line separates the Protestant Shankill Road from Catholic Divis Street. During the 1970s the area was the scene of many Republican protests. Security was heavily increased for the prince's visit.

Prince Charles was accompanied by Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew.

Activists: Apathy threatens emerging democracies

KETTERING, Ohio (AP) — Activists from emerging democracies around the world said that apathy poses the biggest threat to their newly found freedoms.

About 40 activists from 11 countries compared notes at the International Civil Society Workshop, sponsored by the Kettering Foundation, a private research group that promotes better government.

The activists discussed problems they face in trying to bolster their fledgling democracies.

"The main problem is apathy," said Juan Pablo Bocá, 28, an attorney from Santiago, Chile, and a nephew of President Eduardo Frei. "People just aren't really getting involved like they should have a healthy and strong democracy."

Mr. Frei said Chileans may be weary from their ouster of the Pinochet regime. "The danger is in some way we're taking democracy for granted. You never should do that," Mr. Frei said. "It's something you should be working on and building on a day-to-day basis. You really need to have active citizens in a true democracy."

Mr. Frei's memories of the Pinochet regime are painful. He was jailed twice for taking part in street protests in the 1980s.

U.K. Conservative Party slumps in poll

LONDON (R) — Support for Britain's ruling Conservative Party has sunk to its lowest point in more than 50 years, a poll published Friday showed.

The Gallup 500 survey in the Daily Telegraph newspaper put Prime Minister John Major's Conservatives at 29.5 per cent, the opposition Labour Party at 51 per cent and the Liberal Democrats at 19.5 per cent.

"Their popular support sank to its lowest level in any four-week period since Gallup first began polling in Britain in 1938," the newspaper said.

"Labour has never enjoyed leads over the Tories (Conservatives) on anything like this great scale," it added. Almost 80 per cent of the people questioned said they disapproved of the Conservatives' record to date and only 22.4 per cent thought they could handle Britain's economic difficulties better than the other political parties.

Mr. Major's personal popularity is also in the doldrums with only 23 per cent saying they are satisfied with his performance.

The Gallup poll was based on interviews with more than 11,000 people throughout Britain in June.

China brushed off German protesters of Li visit

BEIJING (R) — China Friday brushed off as insignificant Premier Li Peng's encounters with German protesters who marred several of his public appearances.

Mr. Li broke off a visit to Weimar and stood up Berlin's mayor at the Brandenburg Gate because of rallies against Beijing's human rights record.

"Premier Li Peng is accorded a hospitable and friendly reception during his visit in Germany," a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman told Reuters when asked about the protests.

"His visit is fruitful and is a complete success and will play an important role in pushing forward Sino-German relations," she added.

The German press was harshly critical of Mr. Li on Friday.

The Tageszeitung in Berlin, expressing astonishment that Mr. Li should have scorned the Brandenburg Gate and lunch in Weimar because of a few hundred protesters, said people ironically owed him their thanks.

"Because he has turned the demonstrations into an affair of state, we can now be sure

that protests work, that the hundreds of thousands in labour camps, the political trials of democrats, the mass executions and the murder of opponents will be at the centre of attention," it said in a commentary.

The mass-circulation Bild Zeitung delivered a sharp rebuke: "Shoot demonstrators, put others away in prisons for five years — no problem for the Chinese dictator Li Peng. But here is not China, Mr. Li Peng. You expect respect — but so do we."

The Berliner Morgenpost daily was also harsh: "The hard-boiled politician felt that as a potential bearer of billion-dollar deals, he was safe from criticism. Then he showed emotions — and lost 'face' before the whole world."

Mr. Li was due to take a pleasure cruise on the scenic Tegern Lake in the Alpine foothills Friday afternoon.

On Saturday, Mr. Li has time to himself before flying to Bucharest where he ends a 16-day European tour which has produced \$3.5 billion in deals for German firms and another \$1 billion for the Austrian economy.

U.S. firefighters battle blaze that killed 12

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. (R) — An army of nearly 500 firefighters was working in round-the-clock shifts Friday to contain a treacherous forest fire that killed 12 of their colleagues and left two missing.

Rescue teams, who brought 12 bodies down from rugged Storm King Mountain to a makeshift morgue in this resort village Thursday, were set to resume the search for the two others left missing when a relatively small fire went out of control and surrounded 52 people battling the blaze.

Forest Service and sheriff's investigators have begun interviewing the survivors, but Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt said after arriving at the scene that it could take months to find out exactly what happened.

"The simple answer is we don't know," said Babbitt, who called the deaths "an extraordinary tragedy."

As of late Thursday the fire covered more than 2,300

acres (920 hectares) of scrubland on the mountain about 190 kilometres west of Denver, officials said. A fire commander estimated it would not be contained before Saturday evening.

Glenwood Springs, a town of 6,000 famous for its hot springs, was only a half-mile (800 metres) from the fire line, but officials said the danger seemed to be receding as winds died down and temperatures cooled.

"The weather is cooperating," said Jack Lee, the Forest Service official in charge of fighting the blaze.

But weather conditions can change suddenly, as firefighters learned Wednesday when a sudden wind change whipped a fire from 50 acres (20 hectares) to 2,000 acres (800 hectares) within hours, overrunning the firefighters' position.

Some of the firefighters made last-ditch efforts to take cover on portable fire-resistant shelters they carry with them.

U.K. MPs say 'non' to bill banning French words

LONDON (AFP) — British MPs have said a resounding "non" to a bill which would have banned the use of French words in Britain, submitted by a Conservative MP in reprisal for measures taken in France against English. The Commons threw the bill out on the first reading by 149 to 49 overnight Tuesday.

Anthony Steen said as the debate opened that he had proposed the bill "principally to make a point — not to be taken too seriously". Amid general laughter, he then suggested that a £10 (£15) fine should be levied on anyone caught using some of the most frequently used French words in English such as: Baguette, croissant, cafe, brasserie, aperitifs, hors d'oeuvres. "In fact, no restaurants," he said. His non-exhaustive list also included: Flancon, bouquets, rendez-vous, haute couture, lingerie, menage a trois and crime passionnel.

"I'm not the French government's idea of a pure language, a stone's throw away from a policy of ethnic cleansing and purity of race?" Mr. Steen queried. In early May the French parliament approved a bill presented by Culture Minister Jacques Toubon — whose name translated into English "Jack Allgood" is now frequently used in the more satirical French media — which makes French obligatory in the description, offer, presentation and instruction of a good, a product or a service. The same rules apply for all written, spoken or audiovisual advertising.

One whiff and he's sold...

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese firm said Friday it planned to sell perfumes and cosmetics containing substances that stimulated men's brainwaves and heightened their awareness of women. Pola Cosmetics Inc said it had scientifically proven men became more conscious of women when they smell Androstereone, a male steroid, and a chemical compound of Cyclopentyl. Pola would mix Androstereone and the Cyclopentyl compound with other fragrances to make a line of commercial products, a spokeswoman said, adding: "They don't smell very nice on their own."

Jazz temple Village Gate set for closing

NEW YORK (AFP) — The Village Gate, one of New York's most famed jazz clubs since the 1950s, has been foreclosed by a bank, ending any chances of its reopening. The club that featured performers such as Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, Thelma Houston and B.B. King as well as comics including Woody Allen and Mort Sahl has been closed since January and had been occupied by squatters. A court order last week confirmed that Chemical Bank can take over the Greenwich Village club, dashing hopes that owner Art D'Leffoff could reopen it.

"The bank owns it now, and it can do whatever it wants," said D'Leffoff, who filed for bankruptcy in 1991. "All things change, and all the giants are dead," he said.

"All you got now is this grunge, hip-hop, disco. The Blue Note is presenting Kool and the Gang. If that's jazz, I'm the pope." The 500-seat club was New York's biggest jazz night spot, and pioneered in featuring musical and comedy performers in the same show.

Tokyo panties thief gives himself up

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese motorcyclist who terrorised the streets of Tokyo by snatching women's panties at knifepoint has given himself up, police said Friday. Ken Tanaka, 23, told police he had robbed five or six young women of their panties this year. He gave himself up because he thought he would be caught after newspapers publicised the assaults.

Tokyo police have learned of a total of 14 matches since March, but suspect other cases may have gone unreported. In each known case the attacker was riding a motorbike, and left after the victim gave up her panties. No one was hurt. "I've been interested in women's underwear since a very young age," said Tanaka, a truck driver.

Dr. H. M. L. K.

Corruption-buster set to become Belarus leader

MINSK (R) — Radical anti-corruption crusader Alexander Lukashenko, riding a wave of popular discontent, seems poised to become the first president of Belarus in Sunday's run-off election.

The 39-year-old former state farm director seems to be more threatened by a possible low turn-out or election fraud than the campaigning of his rival, Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich. Apparently resigned to defeat, aides of Mr. Kebich, whom Mr. Lukashenko beat into a distant second place in the first round two weeks ago, said Friday that the ex-Soviet republic of 10 million people was not ready for presidential rule.

Mr. Lukashenko took 45 per cent of the vote and Mr. Kebich, an entrenched conservative premier, surprisingly only 17 per cent.

On Sunday, Mr. Lukashenko needs a 50 per cent turnout to make the poll valid and the vote of 50 per

cent of those taking part to become president.

"Only a society with a stable economy can afford to have a president," Vladimir Zametalin, spokesman for Mr. Kebich told Reuters.

"Electing a president by Popular vote now is a huge risk and is stupid," Mr. Zametalin said in a reference to the decision by the conservative parliament earlier this year to introduce the post of the president. Until now, the nominal head of state was the chairman of parliament.

In the first televised debate on Thursday night which he clearly won, Mr. Lukashenko urged voters to turn out en masse and "to prevent falsification or disruption of elections."

He accused the interior and defence ministers of the Kebich government of sending envoys across Belarus to persuade voters to stay at home. Mr. Mr. Kebich denied this.

Greek soldier hurt in Albania border incident

ATHENS (AFP) — A Greek soldier was slightly wounded in an exchange of fire between Greek and Albanian border guards, the Greek Defence Ministry said Friday, blaming the incident on the Albanian side.

The clash at the Argiriochori border crossing near Ioannina, capital of the northeastern Greek state of Epirus, came three months after unidentified guerrillas attacked a military base in a part of southern Albania claimed by Greek nationalists.

Two Albanian soldiers were killed in that incident which touched off a round of tit-for-tat diplomatic expulsions.

A ministry statement said a patrol of six or seven Albanian soldiers strayed onto Greek territory Thursday night and opened fire on a Greek who, with two other guards, had just arrested 10 Albanians who had crossed the border illegally.

"After an exchange of fire" the Albanian soldiers "returned to Albania," the statement said.

The soldier, slightly wounded in the leg and right arm, was taken to hospital in Ioannina.

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu said Friday that "a border incident is always cause for concern, but I don't think we're in a period of

crisis."

Greek and Albanian police and military officers met for the second time Friday, at the Greek border post of Kakavia, at Albania's request, to discuss the incident.

The Albanians charged that the Greeks had fired the first shots, according to the Greek ministry statement, which said the Albanian Foreign Ministry had been informed of the incident.

The Greeks, for their part, called for closer bilateral cooperation on security.

A Greek extremist group claimed responsibility for the April 10 incident at the Albanian military base, but the circumstances of that attack remain unclear.

Albanian authorities subsequently launched a crackdown on political activists among the ethnic Greek minority in southern Albania. They arrested six leaders of the Omonia Movement who await sentencing on charges of treason.

Tension has repeatedly flared between the two countries over the minority, estimated by Athens to number 400,000 but by Tirana at 40,000.

The Greek government has said most of the almost 250,000 Albanians living in Greece are there illegally and wants to end the influx of refugees.

Papandreu announces cabinet with new faces

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Premier Andreas Papandreu moved European Affairs Minister Theodoros Pangalos to the Transport and Communications Ministry and promoted his son George Papandreu to education minister in a cabinet shuffle Thursday.

In the first major change of government members since the Socialists returned to power in October, Mr. Papandreu introduced 14 new faces into the cabinet and removed seven others. He heads a team of 21 ministers, five deputy ministers and 26 undersecretaries.

Most of the changes were at undersecretary level, with the key ministries of foreign affairs, defence, justice, economy, finance and public order largely unaffected. The ministers of interior, labour, education and transport were changed.

Mr. Papandreu had been planning the shuffle for weeks after his party suffered a nine-per cent drop in popularity in last month's elections for the European Parliament, compared to his 47-per cent triumph in October.

But he was dealt a blow when two popular members of his party, former European Commissioner Vasso Papandreu and Dimitris Tsoulas, a former finance minister, refused to join the cabinet. Mr. Papandreu is not related to the premier.

Government spokesman Evangelos Venizelos, who now heads the newly-minted Press Ministry, said the two had laid down terms that Mr. Papandreu could not meet. He did not elaborate.

Tsoulas is known to oppose the austerity measures promoted by the ministers of economy and finance, whom Mr. Papandreu did not change.

Mr. Pangalos, an often controversial figure, had said he wanted a new post after Greece's six-month term at

the helm of the European Union ended last month.

He caused a diplomatic row with Germany last year when he described it as a giant with the mind of a child. He later apologised and won praise from Germany and other EU members for leading the successful membership negotiations with Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway.

As transport minister he will still be in close contact with the European Union. Greece's troubled national carrier, Olympic Airlines, is awaiting approval from the European Commission for a plan to write off its debts and restructure it.

George Papandreu moves to the Education Ministry to a post he held for a while in his father's 1981-1989 administration. He had been foreign affairs undersecretary since October.

Former Interior Minister Akis Tsochopoulos left his post to dedicate himself to being the Socialist Party's general secretary, after a party congress earlier this year ruled that the secretary could not also have a government post.

Former Labour Minister Evangelos Yannopoulos resigned his post hours before the new cabinet was announced, attacking Mr. Papandreu for his austerity measures and saying that the premier was to blame for the governments drop in popularity.

The government had criticised Mr. Yannopoulos recently for having a daily political monologue on a private television channel.

In the only cabinet changes before Thursday, Mr. Papandreu had been forced to replace two popular members who died of cancer: Culture Minister Melina Mercouri, a former actress, died in March; Economy Minister Giorgos Gennimatas died in April.



Tutsi refugees from the southwestern Rwandan town of Butare reach the city limits of Gikongoro, 28 kilometres west, the site of a French military camp. Between 50,000 to 100,000 people have sought the protection of French troops since the Rwandan Patriotic Front seized Butare (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. backs outlawing Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The United States expressed support Friday for the Cambodian parliament's decision to formally outlaw the notorious Khmer Rouge faction. In a statement issued by the U.S. embassy here, Washington said it welcomed the decisions "taken after extensive debate in accordance with the democratic process." Parliament voted unanimously, 103-0, to approve the law Thursday after three-and-a-half days of intensive debate. "As is well known, the Khmer Rouge have committed heinous crimes in the past and have continued an armed insurgency against Cambodia's legitimate government," the statement said.

Wildfires kill 19 in Spain

MADRID (AP) — Emergency workers battled to smother wildfires that have killed 19 people this week, including five crew members of a plane that crashed while trying to douse the flames. Firefighters, soldiers, police and volunteers struggled to control blazes that have threatened at least 130,000 hectares (325,000 acres) along the Mediterranean coast. The emergency drew assistance from neighbouring France and Portugal, a gesture that ended in disaster when a Russian-made Antonov fire plane sent by Portugal crashed near Alicante Wednesday, killing four Ukrainians and one Portuguese. One Ukrainian survived with serious injuries. In Tons, in the region of Valencia, police Thursday found the charred body of a 63-year-old herder apparently trapped by the flames. "When the fires spread as virulently as they have been, it's very difficult to avoid human tragedies," said Cristina Narbona, secretary of state for the environment.

Floods, landslide kill 17 in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Monsoon floods and a landslide have killed at least 17 people, flattened homes and washed away crops in Kashmir and in far eastern India, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Friday. Flash floods in Kashmir's Rajouri district flattened a house late Thursday, killing five people taking shelter inside from pounding rains, PTI said, adding that three others were washed away elsewhere in the northern state. Several other houses were damaged and crops submerged by the floods in Rajouri and Poonch districts, the news agency said. At least nine people died and 50 others were injured in the landslide that destroyed a timber factory in the far eastern Indian state of Assam, a separate PTI dispatch said. The incident occurred Tuesday night, but casualty reports were available only Friday, it said, adding that the toll was likely to rise with more bodies believed to be buried in the debris of the wrecked factory.

U.S. wants CSCE summit in Sarajevo

VIENNA (AFP) — The United States wants the 1996 summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to be held in Sarajevo, a U.S. official said here Friday. This would be a "very strong statement by the international community that we expect Sarajevo and Bosnia-Herzegovina to be restored to the full participation in the family of nations as it should be," said Henry Hoyer, U.S. chief delegate to the third conference of the CSCE parliamentary assembly. Mr. Hoyer spoke after he and several U.S. representatives met Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic during a visit to the Bosnian capital. CSCE summit meetings are held every other year. The next one will convene in Budapest in December.

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The move by the Cambodian parliament to outlaw the Khmer Rouge is unlikely to eradicate the radicals' threat, but will put pressure on the guerrillas within Cambodia and encourage third countries to cut their economic lifeline.

Co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh said he was "very happy" with the 103-0 vote Thursday that saw MPs adopt a law whose tough provisions include the power to arrest Khmer Rouge members and jail them on terms ranging from 20 years to life.

He admitted the law was unlikely to mean the guerrilla threat was over but added it was "one of a number of measures needed to weaken the Khmer Rouge."

Information Ministry spokesman Sieng Lapresse said the main benefit would be to draw a clear line between the legitimate government and the outlawed group, so that any country that continued to back the Khmer Rouge would be seen as directly interfering in

Cambodian internal affairs.

Thailand has repeatedly been accused by Cambodian officials of supporting the guerrillas. Bangkok, while denying this, has also pointed out that the Khmer Rouge are a legitimate faction, recognised by the Cambodian government.

Thai officials have complained that if Phnom Penh wanted Bangkok to treat the Khmer Rouge as outlaws, then the government should declare them as such.

"The law calls Thailand's bluff," a diplomat said.

"I think this law has removed an ambiguous situation that helped perpetuate the strength of the Khmer Rouge," another official said, adding the main effect of the law would be "vis-a-vis third countries, primarily Thailand."

Prince Ranariddh said the government would ask "all those countries who used to allow the Khmer Rouge to go through their territory" to deny the guerrillas this favour from now on.

The government would

Rwanda rebels enter safe area

PARIS (Agencies) — Rwandan rebels Friday entered a safe area established by French troops in western Rwanda to protect refugees, French television reported.

France 2 television said few dozen members of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) entered two kilometres into the area near Rugabano, in the Kibuye region.

France 2, reporting live by telephone from Rugabano, said 100 French soldiers with eight armoured vehicles had been sent there and French Jaguar warplanes had been put on alert in neighbouring Zaïre.

A Defence Ministry spokesman in Paris said small groups of rebels were advancing towards French troops but there had not been any clashes. He added the limits of the safe area had not been defined "to the metre."

The French had declared the area off-limits to troops from both sides in Rwanda's civil war in order to protect refugees from ethnic slaughter.

France has sent 2,500 troops on a humanitarian operation to protect Rwandan refugees. It has said some 900,000 refugees has taken shelter in the safe area.

Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) commander Paul Kagame said Friday a security zone created by French troops in western Rwanda should not provide protection to the rump government troops or RPF forces.

In a broadcast in RPF's Radio Muhabura, Gen. Kagame said the area should be free of all military activity, and added that the RPF would resist any interference in Rwanda's internal affairs.

Gen. Kagame said RPF will "respond appropriately to incursions that may be carried out from the security zone into our territory by anybody."

He described RPF's capture of Kigali Monday as a "turning point" in the history of Rwanda.

"Formerly we were called the rebels, now I think it's the other side that has turned into rebels, and soon we shall be the government," he told the radio monitored here by the BBC.

French soldiers have formed a civilian security zone in western Rwanda and warned that the expedition-

ary force will keep armed groups out of the area.

The RPF is strongly opposed the French intervention because of France's earlier support for Rwanda's Hutu government.

An estimated 500,000 people, mainly from the minority Tutsis, have been killed in Rwanda since April 6 when the Rwandan president, a Hutu, was killed in a suspicious plane crash.

The RPF said it rescued five Roman Catholic nuns and a Canadian priest who have been in hiding in the southern city of Butare for the past three months, rebel radio said Friday.

The radio said the six had been hiding in a missionary compound and the priest was "harassed" by young supporters of slain President Juvenal Habyarimana's MRND party.

Butare residents who fled fighting between RPF and government forces were returning to their homes but lacked food, water and medicines, the radio added, warning that unless humanitarian aid reaches them soon few will survive.

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe warned Friday of a "catastrophic humanitarian situation" in Rwanda and said refugees, particularly in the west of the war-torn country, needed 500 tonnes of food aid a day.

Mr. Juppe said earlier the military situation had "stabilised," after the capital Kigali

fell to the Rwandan Patriotic Front Monday, and there might be a chance for a ceasefire in the small central African nation.

The humanitarian situation was "catastrophic throughout the country, particularly in the western region," Mr. Juppe told reporters after meeting with heads of 17 non-governmental organisations.

He said he wanted to "sound the alarm," adding, "we need almost 500 tonnes of food aid each day to cope with the situation in the refugee camps."

Earlier in Nairobi, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the U.N. food and Agriculture Organisation made urgent appeals for international relief aid to stem the humanitarian crisis facing Rwanda.

Mr. Juppe, whose country sent troops to Rwanda two weeks ago in a controversial U.N.-authorised mission to protect refugees, said here earlier there were "encouraging signs on the ground."

Contacts among the command of France's so-called Operation Turquoise, commanders of the U.N. force in Rwanda, and the command of the Rwandan Patriotic Front and "moderate Hutus" indicated "there may be a chance for a ceasefire," Mr. Juppe said.

But he warned that restoring stability in Rwanda must involve "reconciliation and



U.N. Ghanian troops arrive at the airport of Kigali, which was reopened to allow only air traffic of the U.N. humanitarian mission (AFP photo)

U.N. seeks to renew Bosnia truce on eve of expiration

SARAJEVO (AFP) — With only 24 hours to go before the end of a month-long ceasefire in Bosnia, U.N. officials Friday were urgently seeking its extension as U.N. soldiers continued to monitor its countless violations.

U.N. special representative to the former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi left Zagreb for the southern Bosnian town of Mostar for talks with Bosnian Federation President Ejup Ganic. He will then go to Pale, near Sarajevo, for talks with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on renewing the June 10 ceasefire.

The ceasefire signed in Geneva is due to run out at midnight Saturday (1000 GMT).

"We're hoping we can get guarantees from both sides for a one-month renewal," said U.N. spokeswoman Claire Grines.

Despite current ceasefire violations, notably in the north of the country, "we have less military activity than before the agreement," according to U.N. Protection Force spokesman (UNPROFOR) Commander Eric Chaperon.

However, fighting appeared to continue in northern Bosnia, notably along the Serb-held Posavina Corridor where 132 detonations were monitored over the past 24 hours and along the southern Mount Ozren front where 285 artillery and mortar explosions were recorded Thursday and overnight Thursday to Friday, Maj. Chaperon said.

On Friday morning, an observation post in Gracanica, on the eastern Ozren front, reported 110 detonations.

The situation in the western Bihac region was also "confused," with shelling reported along the confrontation line dividing Serb and government forces, and small arms fire in Bihac town overnight where government forces are fighting Muslims loyal to maverick rebel leader Fikret Abdic.

U.N. headquarters in the town had been surrounded by military police who threatened to shoot any of the 170 U.N. personnel,

mostly French soldiers, if they left the encampment, Maj. Chaperon said Friday.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said a curfew had been imposed in the town Thursday.

"There has been some fighting in the town overnight," Maj. Chaperon said.

Mr. Abdic, a former member of the Bosnian collective presidency and a business tycoon in his own region, declared Bihac an autonomous area last September. Ever since, government troops have tried to stamp out the rebellion.

Following the conclusion of the June 10 ceasefire, government forces turned their guns on Mr. Abdic's forces, seeking to crush them.

On Thursday, Mr. Akashi demanded that Zagreb authorities "immediately" end blockades of U.N. control posts in Croatia, near the border of the self-proclaimed Serb separatist "republic" of Krajina.

The protestors staging the blockades, who accused the U.N. forces of favouring the Krajina separatists, had

attempted to stop U.N. vehicles going in and out of the self-proclaimed "republic."

Mr. Akashi charged that Croatian authorities appeared to be supporting the protestors, and had gone back on a promise not to hinder the work of U.N. peacekeepers.

Meanwhile, small arms exchanges were also reported in the Gorazde Muslim-held enclave of eastern Bosnia and the level of ceasefire violations in the Sarajevo area doubled from a daily average of just over 100 to 225 Thursday.

Most incidents were believed to have involved small arms and machine gun fire, along with rocket-propelled grenade launchers.

Mr. Akashi, who is accompanied by the UNPROFOR commander in the former Yugoslavia, General Bertrand De Lapresle, was also expected to discuss with Serb leaders the situation in Gorazde, a U.N.-declared safe area, along with the growing number of restrictions imposed by the Serbs on U.N. troop movements.

Outlaw bill will weaken, but not wipe out Khmer Rouge threat

PHNOM PENH (AFP) —

The move by the Cambodian parliament to outlaw the Khmer Rouge is unlikely to eradicate the radicals' threat, but will put pressure on the guerrillas within Cambodia and encourage third countries to cut their economic lifeline.

Co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh said he was "very happy" with the 103-0 vote Thursday that saw MPs adopt a law whose tough provisions include the power to arrest Khmer Rouge members and jail them on terms ranging from 20 years to life.

He admitted the law was unlikely to mean the guerrilla threat was over but added it was "one of a number of measures needed to weaken the Khmer Rouge."

Information Ministry spokesman Sieng Lapresse said the main benefit would be to draw a clear line between the legitimate government and the outlawed group, so that any country that continued to back the Khmer Rouge would be seen as directly interfering in

Cambodian internal affairs.

Thailand has repeatedly been accused by Cambodian officials of supporting the guerrillas. Bangkok, while denying this, has also pointed out that the Khmer Rouge are a legitimate faction, recognised by the Cambodian government.

Thai officials have complained that if Phnom Penh wanted Bangkok to treat the Khmer Rouge as outlaws, then the government should declare them as such.

"The law calls Thailand's bluff," a diplomat said.

"I think this law has removed an ambiguous situation that helped perpetuate the strength of the Khmer Rouge," another official said, adding the main effect of the law would be "vis-a-vis third countries, primarily Thailand."

Prince Ranariddh said the government would ask "all those countries who used to allow the Khmer Rouge to go through their territory" to deny the guerrillas this favour from now on.

The law could also have major financial repercussions for the guerrillas if Bangkok prevents Thai businessmen from continuing lucrative gem and timber trade that earn the radicals an estimated \$10 million a month.

Moves to arrest the guerrillas in Thailand or elsewhere would depend crucially on bilateral agreements, as would the article in the law which allows for the seizure of guerrilla assets abroad, officials said.

Internally, the law, which grants a six-month amnesty for the rank-and-file, would encourage Khmer Rouge guerrillas to defect, Prince Ranariddh said.

No one, however, expects the law to bring an immediate end to the civil war, or even less coax the Khmer Rouge into the U.N.-launched democratic process that they snubbed last year.

The Khmer Rouge leaders are tightly knit and secretive, and have many hardened loyalists among their esti-

mated 10,000-member force, which holds sway over around a sixth of the country, launching hit-and-run raids against government positions.

Still, the bill does not close the door entirely on a negotiated settlement to the protracted, low-intensity struggle.

The law grants King Norodom Sihanouk powers of amnesty which extend to the Khmer Rouge leaders should the radical faction finally agree to peace talks.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas shelled the northwestern Cambodian border town of Poipet Friday, killing four Cambodians and wounding 21, Thai military sources said.

Two artillery rounds fired from a guerrilla zone to the south landed near the centre of the market town, the sources said. The wounded were sent to hospital in Sisophon, 50 kilometres to the east.

The explosions were clearly audible from the Thai town

of Aranyaprathet, across the border from Poipet. The Poipet border crossing with Thailand was reopened last week after being closed for three months because of dry season fighting in the area.

Meanwhile Cambodia's co-premiers sought to dispel panic that gripped the security apparatus Friday as police and army officials geared they would be targeted for arrest after last weekend's attempted coup.

A day after the authorities stepped up a crackdown on senior figures suspected of a role in the abortive takeover, co-premiers Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen issued a statement appealing for calm.

They said a small group of people had tried to seize power but had been thwarted without loss of blood, and rank-and-file troops who had mistakenly taken part in the operation would not be punished.

"But some people are taking advantage of the situation to spread false propaganda," the communiqué said.

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Rebuilding is task for Yemen

THE FALL of Aden and with it the attempts by former Yemeni-vice President Ali Salem Al Beidh to resurrect the former South Yemeni state could have been foreseen right from the beginning and should have been anticipated by the southern leadership. The two months of war that engulfed the Yemeni nation and wrought havoc on its people and infrastructures was a price that did not have to be paid by the Yemeni people in terms of human and other resources. The bloody armed conflict between Sanaa and Aden took a heavy toll on all Yemenis whether in the north or in the south.

Now that Sanaa has emerged victorious in the civil war, however, all efforts need to be channelled into reconstruction and wound healing. The north can be expected to be magnanimous in its dealing with their brothers in the south. With the objective of breathing new life into the national unity well in focus, the sooner the two warring sides go back to the business of nationbuilding the better.

Of course we all would have preferred to have seen the Yemeni unity preserved without the need to wage war. There was a time when war prevention could have been possible. Even when war broke out there were sincere attempts by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to stop it on only one condition, namely, for the breakaway state to roll back events and go back on its self-proclaimed decision to form a state of their own on the ashes of a divided Yemen.

For sure, the Yemeni people would get back to normal within a reasonable time. National reconciliation can be expected to reemerge soon as well. What has got to be resolved is the impact of the fall of Aden on inter-Arab relations. Given the fact that some Arab countries, notably in the Gulf region, had decided to back Aden at least politically, the results of the war will naturally have implications on the future relations between Sanaa and those Arab capitals that chose to take sides. So, whereas national reconciliation within Yemen can be expected to materialise in a relatively short period of time, there is no telling when inter-Arab reconciliation can be expected to take place. Obviously all those powers which put their faith in the ability of Aden to emerge victorious will feel embarrassed by the outcome of the fighting. The bitterness that will no doubt be experienced by some Arab capitals is bound to exacerbate the already strained Arab relations. With the wounds of the Gulf war not fully healed yet, the last thing that the Arab World needs is another conflict in its midst.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Friday described His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Egypt Wednesday as marking the start of a new chapter in inter-Arab relations. The visit, which came only a few days before the opening of Jordanian-Israeli talks to determine the border and the water issues, reflects Jordan's keenness on maintaining coordination with the other Arab states involved in the peace process with Israel, said the daily. The successful talks King Hussein had with President Hosni Mubarak are bound to enhance the Arab nation's position in the coming negotiations with Israel and will no doubt pave the ground for better relations among Arab states, said the daily. Jordan needs backing from the other Arab countries as it prepares for the battle of peace, added the daily. The King's statement reiterating Jordan's keenness on strengthening cooperation with the other Arab states, said the daily, reflects the Kingdom's determination to pursue a comprehensive and just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i described Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's visit to Gaza and Jericho as extremely successful. Sultan Al Hattab said that the tens of thousands of people who gathered to welcome Mr. Arafat and listen to his address provided evidence of this success and proved to the world that the road before Mr. Arafat will lead to final success of the peace process, said Mr. Hattab. Also, the outrage shown by the Zionist extremists who opposed Mr. Arafat's visit was sufficient evidence that his mission would lead to success. The daily also said that the peace-loving people of the Arab world are backed by the Arab's quest for peace, said the writer. On the internal front, he said Mr. Arafat was careful not to provoke any party opposed to the peace process and was careful to appeal to the resistance group, Hamas, to join him in his endeavours to arrive at a formula with the Israelis that would guarantee the full rights of the Palestinian people.

Jordanian Perspective

No more this cat-and-mouse game

By Dr. Musa Kellani

LAST WEEK was indeed historic. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat made his triumphant entry to the self-rule territories, an event that could not have been expected 10 months ago. The Israeli government showed enough political acumen to publicly accept that the peace process is irreversible along the lines it is proceeding now. The less than expected jubilation with which the Palestinians welcomed Mr. Arafat was only expected, given their continued problems, particularly that of making a decent living, with or without occupation. Hopefully, moves will be undertaken soon to address this aspect, the most important key to the success of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord.

We in Jordan wish the Palestinians well. We genuinely and sincerely hope that their endeavours for complete liberation and restoration of their full legitimate rights as any other people in the world are realised soon. Their lot has suffered too much not to have their dreams come true.

Now that the ceremonies and euphoria are over, it is time Mr. Arafat and the rest of the PLO leadership sat down to face hard, cold facts on the ground.

Jordan has always shared the suffering of the Palestinian people and paid a high price for having the longest confrontation line with Israel. The road was not always very smooth, but, in the final analysis, no Arab country has suffered because of the continued conflict with Israel as much as Jordan; and it is time an end is put to the problems faced by the Kingdom.

No matter how one looks at it, Mr. Arafat's choice to enter the Gaza Strip through Rafah rather than Jericho through the King Hussein Bridge underlined an uneasy state of relationship with Jordan. Indeed, the lukewarm words that Mr. Arafat had for Jordan in his first speech in Gaza further highlighted the status of the relationship.

In any event, regardless of Mr. Arafat's viewpoints, the fact remains that Jordan has to play a key role in supporting the Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace process. But the PLO's behaviour so far was not exactly based on that understanding let alone appreciation of that role.

Mr. Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, are of course free to pursue their options and political course that they have charted for themselves. If anything, we in Jordan stand absolved of any responsibility.

But what we would like to hear from the PLO is a very clear and unequivocal statement of its vision of relations

with Jordan. To cite "confederation" as the ultimate objective in public and private comments simply won't work; there is a process that has to be followed before either side can reach a point and assert that it is, indeed, time for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

Jordan has made this point very clear, repeatedly and loudly, to Mr. Arafat and others in the PLO leadership. They are very much mistaken to use "confederation" as a smokescreen to "comfort" Jordan. On the contrary, we are more disturbed than comforted to hear that word at this point in time.

There are many other pressing matters that await the Palestinians and Jordan before we could reach a point where the issue of confederation/federation, or whatever, could be discussed. First among them is coordination.

The PLO leadership is deceiving itself if it believes that it would be in the best interests of the Palestinians to steer clear of Jordan. But again, if that is their choice, then it should be made clear to Jordan rather than keeping the Kingdom on the sidelines waiting for the PLO leaders to get down to the issue when they are free enough from their nation-building efforts.

When Jordan and the PLO found themselves in a corner as a result of the economic accord signed between Israel and the PLO in April, it was the Kingdom which suggested evasive means that would serve the interests of Jordanians and Palestinians in the long run.

We do understand that self-rule under occupation does not mean economic independence, and it is naive of anyone to expect a self-rule authority to be free to exercise own options. But we find it difficult to understand the PLO's approach, to say the least.

When the two sides met in mid-May and drafted an accord on the modalities of the Jan. 7 economic agreement, we were told that the PLO had some reservations on some of the points but that it was a matter of few days before these could be sorted out. Since then, ambiguity has surrounded the PLO's perceptions on such an important element of the relationship as economic cooperation.

Jordan will not allow itself to be given the rumour around any more. The PLO leadership should be frank and forthcoming in their approach to Jordan and drop their cat-and-mouse game. Our patience has been stretched to the limit, and it would not serve Jordan or the Palestinians to continue the status quo.



THE WEEK IN PRINT

It is time Arabs started preparing for new stage

By Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL press last week gave prominence to His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Egypt, developments in the Middle East peace process, the situation in Yemen and a host of domestic affairs.

In tackling King Hussein's visit to Egypt, a columnist in Al Dustour daily said it is about time that the Arab countries met to prepare for the coming stage in the peace process. Taber Al Adwan said that while Israel has been utilising all the stages in the peace negotiations to benefit its own national interests, the Arabs have failed to come to agreement on basic issues, especially economic integration in the face of the expected Israeli economic hegemony. The Arab states entered many wars with Israel without any coordination and they ought to learn from past lessons and enter the peace battle in harmony so as to achieve their national goals, added Mr. Adwan.

Commenting on the King's visit to Egypt, Al Ra'i daily said that contacts between Cairo and Amman were timely in view of the serious developments in the peace process and in order to achieve a higher degree of coordination among the Arab parties. The paper said it was natural for Jordan to seek coordination with other Arab states because it is keen on achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace.

Discussing Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's visit to the Jericho and Gaza self-rule areas, Saleh Qal-

lab, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that Mr. Arafat has discovered for himself and in the light of the enthusiastic welcome he was accorded by the tens of thousands of people that reports about opposition to his formula for peace with Israel were highly exaggerated. The writer said that Mr. Arafat's visit was a success in the eyes of the world and the Arab masses but Mr. Arafat should immediately hold elections since the circumstances are very favourable at the moment and because the Palestinians would like to see and practice democracy.

Walid Abu Baker, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that Mr. Arafat's return to Palestinian land was a necessary step to encourage the Palestinians to follow in his footsteps and also to encourage donor nations to honour their financial and economic aid promises to the Palestinians. It was natural, said the writer, for thousands of people to gather around Mr. Arafat, but, he said that it remains to be seen whether his promises of leading the masses to full independence would ever materialise.

Countering Mr. Arafat's visit, Zionist extremist went on the rampage and carried out outrageous actions, thus manifesting to the whole world their lust for war and their opposition to peace, according to Mahmoud Rimawi, columnist in Al Ra'i daily. The writer said that the world has experienced a taste of

Jewish fundamentalism in this past week, represented in the hysterical actions committed by the Zionists opposed to peace with the Arabs. It is regrettable, said the writer, to see the Israeli government, which had signed the Oslo and Cairo agreements, giving in to the extremists' desire and allowing them to wreak havoc in the Arab territories.

Several columnists mourned the Palestinian poet and politician Tawfiq Zayad, who died in a road accident on his way to Jericho. Mohammad Kharroub, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, described Mr. Zayad as one of the few brave leaders who never compromised on the rights of their nation and one who never retreated from his adamant opposition to Israeli occupation. Mr. Zayad, who served as member of the Israeli parliament, utilised his position to defend Arab rights, said the writer. Saleh Qal-

lab, a writer in Al Dustour, said that Mr. Zayad faced Israel's wrath without flinching and was an advocate of the intifada. The writer said that Mr. Zayad had since the outbreak of the intifada in 1987 supported the rise against the Israeli occupation, describing the intifada as the only way for liberating the Palestinian lands.

Mahmoud Rimawi said that Mr. Zayad faced the prospect of being expelled from the Israeli parliament in view of his ideas. The writer said that not only did Mr. Zayad live the life of a rebel against occupation in

word and deed but he has died trying to reach Jericho and voice support for Mr. Arafat.

Sameer Habashneh, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the leaders in Aden have tried to break up their country and Yemen's unity and had sought help from Arab and foreign nations. Unity between the north and south, said the writer, came about as an implementation of an agreement between the two sides and in embodiment of the desire of the Yemeni masses. Furthermore, the southerners have tried to break the Amman agreement under which they pledged to work towards safeguarding the unity of the Yemeni people.

Hosni Ayesah, a columnist in Al Ra'i discussed the tragic accidents witnessed by Jordan's roads recently, causing the loss of innocent life and valuable material property. The concerned authorities have repeatedly said that the accidents are caused by human error, the condition of the road or the condition of the vehicle, said the writer. But it seems that nothing has been to redress the situation on these tracks, said Mr. Ayesah. Had the concerned authorities sincerely believed that man is the most precious asset in Jordan, they would have set up a higher ministerial commission to take control of questions related to or with direct effect on road accidents and other elements involved in them, said the writer.

Barely surviving and no way out

By Mousa Kheifat

ONE of the major social problems threatening the stability of any community is that of poverty. This world-wide problem is always considered the stumbling-block on the road to prosperity for any society. Jordan, like any other Third World country, is facing this problem. In Jordan, the problem of poverty is much more visible in the countryside because in big cities intensive commercial and economic activities are usually more obvious.

It is important, in my opinion, to discuss the problem of poverty in the south of Jordan, where it is most spread, and think of possible reasons behind this problem. These reasons, many in fact, contribute a great deal to poverty. One is lack of resources. Then there is the limited agricultural and touristic activity in the south. The majority of people in Ma'an work in agriculture and breed sheep, and barely make ends meet. On the other hand, tourism is centered in specific regions.

The Ma'an Governorate is made up of eight administrative divisions, covering on 48 per cent of the total area of the country, with a population of not more than 150,000. Poverty in the Ma'an region is really a pressing problem for both the people and the government. It is very much spread in small villages and scattered settlements. Poor agriculture in Ma'an is, as I have already mentioned, one of the major reasons leading to poverty. The weak and scarce water supply, attributed to limited and irregular rainfall, is what hinders agricultural development. Moreover, in the Ma'an region being mainly a desert, only special kinds of plants could be grown.

The rising level of unemployment is another reason behind poverty. Unemployment is in fact widely spread in the whole country, but even more so in the countryside around Ma'an. The absence of working opportunities and investment projects is an added factor that contributes to unemployment and, as a result, to poverty.

Graduates always have to wait for at least two years to get a job in a government department. And there only a limited number get jobs. Official sources in the south said that there are at present 1,000 job applications in different government departments, many of them of university and community college graduates. The ongoing blockade against Aqaba has played a

negative role on the vital sector of land transportation between Aqaba and the neighbouring countries. This means that most of the people in Ma'an who are completely dependent on this sector do not work now.

The southern areas where tourism is active do not face the problems of poverty and unemployment. These regions like Wadi Mousa, Aqaba and Taibeh, are actually enjoying a surge in tourism and investment activity. Therefore, hundreds of job opportunities have been offered to the residents of these regions, including retired people.

To combat poverty, the Ministry of Social Development has founded the National Fund (NF) to help those who are in dire need of monthly income. The ministry, through the development of local societies, is also combating poverty through loans, given to qualified people in order to start income-generating projects.

NF officials in Ma'an said that there are 1,900 families benefiting from the fund on a monthly basis. The aid is estimated at JD 55,250. Another 44 families are benefiting from loans for different projects. But it seems that most of these people are completely dissatisfied with this aid, saying that they could not manage with JD 40 a month under today's hard living conditions.

Ali Esa, a 70-year-old peasant from a small village called Rajef, said he could not imagine how JD 50 a month from the NF could be sufficient for his 7-member family. "I can hardly survive with this and at this time I do not have any other income," he said.

Ahmad Khalil, 35 years old serving in the army, said: My JD 135 salary a month doesn't help me offer my five daughters and three sons everything they are supposed to have." He also said that although life is still simple in his village of Basta, he could not have his own house, adding that sometimes he asks for help from his relatives or friends.

An old woman, Mariam Salaman from the Shobak region, said that JD 35 a month from the NF would not pay for water and electricity if she decided to have such facilities.

So the question one might ask to those in charge is: "Could JD 30, 40 or 50 be enough to have a comfortable life, with no problems and complaints?"

The writer is Al Ra'i Arabic daily correspondent in Ma'an.

LETTERS

Noisy celebrations

To the Editor:

Noise comes with summer, the season of many marriages. Unfortunately, this phenomenon is a serious social problem, not a blessing.

What I want to stress at the outset is that I am not against marriages or those who wish to have fun, but I am strongly against the bad practice and behaviour which accompany the said occasions: the noise which comes with the marriage processions in our streets, especially the annoying horns of vehicles and the shootings.

Take for example, the marriage procession. The cars do not move from the groom's house to the celebration site directly. Rather, they have to tour half of the town, blowing horns and contributing to traffic jams. The sight is not civilised. It is noise, fumes, and crowds.

In some areas, people bring a singer and noisy loudspeakers; imagine the disturbance such an act causes (and it usually lasts long past midnight) to students who want to study, to sick people or to children who want to sleep. People deserve to have some rest, after all.

Let us celebrate, sing and dance, but not at the expense of others.

Elad Najib Badr,
Yarmouk University,
Irbid.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

U.S. ponders what it's worth to close Chernobyl

By Josef Hebert
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While U.S. officials worry about another accident at Chernobyl, they are faced with a quandary, should the West help Ukraine build more nuclear power plants as a price to get the Chernobyl reactors shut down?

Leaders of the seven most powerful industrial democracies, including President Bill Clinton, tackle the issue at the G-7 economic conference in Naples, Italy, this week, hoping to write an aid plan that will persuade Ukraine to close the Chernobyl reactors.

One proposal would funnel an estimated \$1.8 billion to Ukraine to close the plant.

But Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has suggested that more international aid will be needed because substitute energy sources also will have to be developed before he considers closing the reactors.

Chernobyl became synonymous with the dangers of nuclear power after the 1986 accident in which the No. 4 reactor exploded, spewing tonnes of radioactive material over more than 25,000 square kilometres. At least 32 people were killed immediately, thousands more were contaminated and about 180,000 people had to be evacuated. Minute traces of radiation were reported as far away as western Europe.

But the western leaders — and the Clinton administration itself — have been divided over how best to help Ukraine develop replacement electricity. Chernobyl supplies 3 per cent of Ukraine's demand.

One nagging question is whether the West should pay for finishing five partially completed Russian-made reactors to make up for the lost Chernobyl power. The

Russian VVER-1000 design reactors are safer than the Chernobyl design, but still not as safe as western-built reactors.

Germany and France have pushed for helping Ukraine complete the new reactors with improved safety features, but the United States would like a broader aid package.

The U.S. State Department urges against picking a fight with the Europeans over this and favours completing the new reactors. The U.S. Energy Department argues that money should be earmarked to promoting energy efficiency, modernising and expanding fossil-fuel plants and building wind-powered generating facilities.

"I don't think anybody is ruling out some expenditure on safety upgrades of nearly completed nuclear facilities," Deputy U.S. Energy Secretary Bill White said in an interview. "But we do believe there are energy sources and energy savings that also ought to be in the picture."

In any case, the cost to the West could be in the billions of dollars. Just closing the Chernobyl reactors and repairing the sarcophagus that now encases the burned-out unit 4 reactor could exceed \$1.4 billion, energy experts say. With the cost of developing replacement power two or three times that amount.

The cost of completing the new Russian-design reactors ranges from \$34 million to nearly \$1.3 billion per reactor, depending on safety and stage of completion. Much of the business would go to nuclear vendors in Europe and the United States.

But an Energy Department analysis concludes that it would be cheaper to modernise and expand five fossil-fuel power plants, upgrade hydroelectric facilities, ex-

pand a proposed wind power plant, and improve energy efficiency in Ukraine's industrial plants.

Use of more efficient industrial motors, improved maintenance and better operational practices could save nearly as much electricity as the 1,800 megawatts the Chernobyl reactors produce, the study said.

"For the first time there's a serious look by the United States and Ukraine energy officials at other options" besides nuclear, said Jacob Scherr, a nuclear power expert at the Natural Resources Defence Council, the Washington-based environmental group.

Nuclear experts in the West agree the RBMK design reactors at Chernobyl should be closed.

Unlike western reactors, they are cooled with graphite, which is combustible, as opposed to water. They also are susceptible to sudden power surges if coolant is lost, and have no steel-and-concrete enclosure to contain radioactive releases as do all western reactors.

Last March, a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency said the reactors did not meet international safety standards and were hampered by a shortage of spare parts and adequately trained staff.

The new water-cooled Russian VVER-1000 reactors have a containment structure but still do not meet western safety standards in design or construction, say nuclear experts.

Given the state of the nuclear programme in the former Soviet Union and the alternatives available "it would be indefensible... to support completion of additional reactors," says Mr. Scherr of NRDC.

By Wilma Levy

Street basketball, which comes from the United States, is now invading French suburban housing estates. It is indissoluble from rap, tags and murals, and, for thousands of teenagers, it is not only a game, but also gives a meaning to their lives.

Kids in the Paris suburbs have developed a new passion for street basketball. Their heroes and philosophers are Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan. Their Nike caps and NBA t-shirts are cult objects, their courts are makeshift pieces of ground disregarding specifications and they have their own special language which blends French, English and "verlan" reverse-syllable slang.

Kids improvise in whatever way they can. In a corner of an esplanade in a housing estate in the suburb of Bobigny (north-east of Paris), five or six kids play using a shopping-trolley for a basket.

Azz, aged 13, explains: "The Americans have basketball courts, but we have a shopping trolley. It just happened by chance two years ago. One day, we pushed a trolley over the top of the terrace for a laugh and it got caught there and we realised that we could use it as a basket for basketball from below, for free. Of course we would like a real basket. So we wrote to the mayor. We still haven't got it, but the trolley has passed into posterity with the visit of Shaquille O'Neal, the star from Orlando and one of the best North American players, when he was on tour in Paris."

Azz's eyes are still filled with wonder. "He carried us in his arms and gave us a ball."

Thousands of kids live like that with their feet in a town in the Paris area and their heads in the United States, but there is a big gap between the two continents.

In the United States, the local playground is considered as the first stage for a basketball player, the beginning of a path leading to a club. In France, those who have a playground with three or four means atmosphere and a feeling of comradeship. "Come along, you play and you don't owe anybody anything."



Basketball generation — teenagers from the outskirts improvise stadiums to practice their favourite sport (L'actualité en France photo)

The basketball generation

In France, you always have to go through a club. It is too restrictive. In fact, we would all love to belong to a club, but nobody dares to admit it," says Charly, aged 20, a student in the day and a pizza delivery-man at the weekend, who is a keen frequenter of a ground in Paris' 13th district.

The fans of street basketball are radical. In a club, you have to earn your place. You cannot touch the ball right away, whereas in the street, that is the only thing that matters. In the street, you are niftier and more aggressive.

A street team will always beat a club team. That is not, however, the opinion of technicians who do not rightly consider that kids playing in the streets lack technique and the basics. A specialist from a basketball magazine insists that when they are told that, they have to work at it, they answer that they have already won a tournament in the district and that they are champions. In the States, the kids work hard to reach the top.

Only one player in the "National 1" (the best division in the French basketball championships) Mustapha Sonko, who played in the clubs in Sceaux and in Gravelines, initially came from street basketball. He confirms the difficulties that the French National Basketball Federation has, to communicate with "spontaneous" players from the Paris suburbs. Yet, the facts have to be faced. More than 500 requests for the creation of basketball courts have been made.

Town councils are hesitating on the attitude to adopt. Most playgrounds have clearly been taken over by the groups which operate there. The security conditions are not always ideal and the locals are often not at all keen to have such noisy neighbours. So, like in Harlem, youngsters in the Glacière district of Paris have set up play-areas under the arches of the over-head Métro. Since then, the authorities have understood

that although this form of expression may escape their control, it could prove positive for the integration of young people who are sometimes almost on the fringe of society or on the way to becoming delinquents. "If life has a meaning, then we will not need drugs and, at the moment, basketball gives life a meaning," adds Nann, from the Paris suburb of Champigny.

So, perhaps, after giving cause for concern at the beginning, street basketball could turn out to be an element of socialisation. Although official basketball organisations may be slow to react, the manufacturers of sports equipment are cashing in on the wave and do not hesitate to invest in a non negligible "captive market."

This summer, no fewer than four playground competitions will be organised with sponsors whose names do not call for any comment. They include Outdoor, Adidas, Con-

verse, etc.. Like last year, tens of thousands of young people will take part but their pleasure is not always free from criticism. "The brands take us for idiots. They organise tournaments, but they are not patrons. It is purely commercial. A pair of basketball boots cost 1,000 francs and a tracksuit 2,000, and just because they bear the name of a star. Everybody makes money out of us and when one understands that, there is no moral sense in anything any more."

The settings chosen for the finals of these tournaments are also splendid. For a day, it means goodbye to the suburbs and hello to Paris. The esplanade of the ultra-modern business district of La Défense, or Trocadero, opposite the Eiffel Tower, become prestigious basketball courts. However, these amateur players know full well that after September, they will be back home in their suburbs again.

Thai monks' shenanigans shake Buddhism

By Grant Peck
The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — Once revered as paragons of simple virtue, Thailand's saffron-robed monks are seeing their prestige tarnished by headline-grabbing charges of sexual escapades and shady business practices.

One popular preacher, Phra Yantra Ammarabhikku, has been accused by former followers of being a globe-trotting playboy who has made love on the open deck of a Scandinavian ferry and in the back of a van crisscrossing Austria with a Danish harp-player. They claim he also fathered a child with one devotee.

Breaking the oath of celibacy is one of the gravest offences a Buddhist monk can commit and is punishable by defrocking.

Yantra denies all accusations of wrongdoing. But as tales about him have unfolded, other charges of hanky-panky among the country's holy men have hit the papers on a regular basis.

Phra Kittiwuttho is another well-known monk who has long been an embarrassment to his colleagues because of his dubious political and business activities. He was arrested in May on fraud charges tied to a \$275,000 land sale. Stealing is another offence punishable by expulsion from the monkhood.

Shenanigans involving lesser known monks have become regular occurrences. "Monk among suspects in fake dollar ring bust," read a recent headline in the Bangkok Post.

If the practice of Ther-

avada Buddhism — the religion of more than 90 per cent of Thailand's people — has one overriding theme, it is the renunciation of desire, sexual and material.

Thailand's tolerant society nonetheless allows monks considerable leeway in applying the 227 rules supposed to guide them in living an abstemious life. A monk who smokes a cigarette or buys a lottery ticket will nowadays hardly be given a second glance, even if he is breaking the spirit of his vows.

Until fairly recently, village life was at the centre of most Thai's existence, and the local temple served as church, school and social centre. But economic development has shifted society's focus to impersonal cities.

Into the void have jumped such "superstar" monks as Yantra, 42, whose preachings are widely disseminated by book, radio and cassette tape.

"He's good-looking. He lives a simple life. He has a beautiful voice which attracts people to his sermons. And he has a large following," said Phra Rattamithes, a monk and Yantra defender who is secretary to the supreme patriarch, head of the Buddhist church in Thailand.

"So many girls and women have been attracted to him," said Ravee Bhavilai, a scholar of religion. "But these people do not know what Buddhism is. They have their own image of a saint in their mind. Some place that is a vacuum in their psyche, and that is maybe why they are so mad about him."

Yantra's superstar status has enabled institutions associated with him to rake in big profits, mainly through donations from the faithful, but also through sales of books and tapes of his sermons and other items.

The wealth has also allowed Yantra to live in a style in which a Buddhist monk is not supposed to become accustomed. He travels with two credit cards and has been reported to hold a \$3.92 million bank account in his lay name.

He has been criticised for the relatively grand fashion in which he makes his trips abroad to spread the faith. Such trips do not contravene Buddhist precepts, but doing it in high style — at luxury hotels with large entourages — does.

The Thai press has published photographs from his trips showing Yantra with a rather unmonkish interest in mundane tourist activities. He hitched up his robes to scale a tower at Indonesia's Borobudur Temple and donned a vest and wool hat with flaps during a trip to Mongolia. He is supposed to keep his robes over everything.

The reaction of the religious establishment so far has been to circle wagons. If Yantra's reputation suffered, so would Thai Buddhism, said Phra Rattamithes, the secretary to the supreme patriarch.

Yantra has filed defamation suits against a newspaper and three individuals, including a fellow monk, for circulating audio and videotapes allegedly linking him to sexual escapades. But none has yet gone to trial.

detained since Feb. 10, 1994. 17 — Fa'eq Shawish, 29, from Haifa; resident of Safout; educated, married, mosque imam; detained since Feb. 11, 1994.

18 — Umar Al Shawahin, 29, from Hebron, resident of Al Subeithi area; educated, married, mosque imam; detained since Feb. 11, 1994.

19 — Issam Al Daya, 22, from Gaza, resident of Jabal Al Taj; educated, single, grocery store worker; detained since March 6, 1994.

20 — Yahya Al Shawarkeh, from Al Baqaa, remains at large.

21 — Abdul Majid Abu Daya, 34, from Hebron; resident of Al Kamaliya; edu-

cated, married, detained on March 3, 1994, and freed on bail April 13.

22 — Raad Al Kasabrah, 22, from Deiraban near Jerusalem; resident of Al Hashimi Al Shamali, educated, single, construction worker; detained since Feb. 10, 1994.

23 — Waleed Al Asha, 22, from Ein Karem, resident of Al Hashimi Al Shamali; educated, single, carpenter, detained since Feb. 16, 1994.

24 — Mohammad Ziyada, 22, from Falouja, resident of Al Baqaa; educated, single, unemployed; detained since Feb. 10, 1994.

25 — Mohammad Khalifeh, Saudi national; (remains at large).

Bloody past haunts Beirut courtrooms

From Robert Fink

BEIRUT — As Dany Chamoun lay on the floor of his home, wrestling with the man about to kill him, his seven-year-old son, Tarek, ran to his father's bedside and pulled out a gun with the words: "He's hitting my Daddy. I'm going to shoot him."

The murderer coldly blew out the brave little boy's brain with a 9mm bullet. His five-year-old brother Julian screaming "No, no, no, no!" was shot in the left eye.

Shouting in anguish, Dany tried to protect his young wife, Ingrid, as a gunman shot her five times in the chest and stomach. Dany, leader of the right-wing National Liberal Party, was cut down with 14 bullets.

The massacre of the Chamoun family occurred almost four years ago, but the details of the crime, now being revealed in Beirut for the first time, are so terrifying, it is as if they happened yesterday.

Like the 1976 murder of U.S. Ambassador Francis Meloy the ghosts of the Lebanese civil war are being resurrected in the long-dormant Beirut Justice Ministry, where judges and lawyers who spent 15 years in fear of assassination are now cross-examining a series of young men who must have thought they would never be held accountable for their crimes.

What these cases also prove is that the Lebanese police force — impotent and sometimes derided as it was during the war — continued during the conflict to investigate the country's horrific murders and file away reports until the day the militias were disarmed and law was reimposed. Many Lebanese, who tried to forget the war and its lessons, have now been forced to recall the savagery with which it was fought.

A legal amnesty covers most civil war crimes — which is just as well, since there are men in the Beirut government with blood on their hands.

But the Chamoun murders were committed a



Samir Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces, and his wife Strida at their Lebanese mountain stronghold of Ghedras. Geagea is on trial for allegedly murdering Christian leader Dany Chamoun and his family (AFP photo)

week after the amnesty deadline, and the authorities, perhaps prompted by the United States government, have also decided that Ambassador Meloy's murder, with that of his economic councillor, Robert Waring, and his driver, Mohammed Moghrabi, is not covered by the state pardon.

Samir Geagea, a former Christian militia leader and rival of Chamoun, is charged with 12 other men with the murder of the Chamoun family on 21 October 1990 — a crime they all deny. Two Palestinians, Nafek Kamal and Bassem Ferkh, have already appeared in court accused of involvement in the kidnapping of Ambassador Meloy and his colleagues in June, 1976.

Mr. Ferkh told the Beirut criminal court this month that he was ordered to take Ambassador Meloy, Mr. Waring and Mr. Moghrabi from their hijacked embassy car by Mahmoud Awada, an official of the Socialist Action Group.

He claimed that there

was no U.S. flag on the embassy car, and that he did not know who Mr. Meloy was, though the ambassador had twice talked on his two-way radio after his kidnapping. Mr. Ferkh says the embassy driver then showed him a newspaper photograph of Mr. Meloy standing beside the Druze leader, Kamal Jumblat. Mr. Ferkh told the court: "I told him (Moghrabi), 'with this picture, you have been saved.'"

But within 24 hours, the bodies of all three men were found lying on a beach at Ramlet El Bayada in West Beirut. All had been shot.

The reasons for their murder have not yet been revealed; however, two important elements did emerge in court.

The first was that FLO leader Yasser Arafat had tried desperately to find and release the ambassador — confirming a claim Mr. Arafat made at the time. And the second was that the kidnapped men had been taken to a Beirut office of the Popular Front

for the Liberation of Palestine, George Habash's radical Palestinian guerrilla movement.

Although the wheels of justice are grinding again in Beirut, they are doing so amid disturbing accounts of pre-trial torture and beatings by the police.

Amnesty International (AI) has complained of the mysterious death in a Ministry of Defence cell of Fawzi Al Rasi, a young Maronite, who was being questioned about the massacre of 11 worshippers in the bombing of the Zouk church in February — a killing for which Mr. Geagea has also been charged.

In January, Amnesty also complained of allegations that a man charged with "collaboration with the Israeli enemy" had been beaten in Defence Ministry cells.

Mr. Kamal, one of the accused in the Meloy case, claimed this month that he had admitted involvement only because of threats made to him during interrogation. And this week, Youssef Chabean, a Palestinian and former

member of Abu Nidal's assassination group charged with murdering Nayb Al Ma'ayteh, a Jordanian diplomat, pulled off his sock in court and showed the judge red marks on his feet, claiming he had been tortured in custody.

The chief prosecution witness, a Palestinian woman called Aytat Mohammad Yousef, withdrew her testimony because, she said, a senior police officer and his men had stripped her to her underclothes in a police cell and beaten her up before forcing her to make her statement.

A police general and a lieutenant colonel agreed that the woman had been thought at one stage to be involved in the crime but that she, like the accused, had never been harmed.

The Lebanese police general confirmed that the Syrian intelligence services had arrested Mr. Chabean at his request because the Bourj Al Barajneh Palestinian camp in which he lived in Beirut was "off-limits to the (Lebanese) security forces." Beirut newspapers published the 15,000-word indictment against Mr. Geagea for the Chamoun murders along with graphic accounts from witnesses. The document stated that all the accused pleaded not guilty. French lawyers have been hired for what is likely to be a dramatic trial.

In Sidon, Germany's request to extradite Mohammad Chreidi, a Palestinian accused of the 1986 bombing of the La Belle discotheque in Berlin, is likely to be considered by the local court next month, although he has just been acquitted — for "lack of evidence" — of the murder of a Libyan dissident in Germany two years earlier.

Mr. Chreidi denied both offences; another Palestinian charged with him claimed that he had been forced to sign a blank sheet of paper, and that his court statement was written on the paper afterwards.

The Independent

25 face trial

(Continued from page 12)

Al Baqaa, educated, single, unemployed; detained since Feb. 10, 1994.

14 — Suleiman Baysah, 22, from Tiberias; resident of Al Baqaa; educated, single, unemployed; detained since Feb. 10, 1994.

15 — Hassan Abdul Qadar, from Al Ramleh; resident of Al Baqaa; educated, single, student; detained since Feb. 10, 1994.

16 — Mohammad Dar Odeh, 24, from Kalkilyah; resident of Sweileh; educated, single, factory worker;

Dollar will rise on fundamentals - Clinton

APLES, Italy (AFP) — The dollar will rise in response to fundamental considerations and the main cause of its weakness is the Japanese trade surplus, U.S. President Bill Clinton said Friday.

He said that nothing should be done with interest rates which might impede economic recovery, in remarks shortly before the opening of the summit of leading industrialised countries here.

Mr. Clinton Friday predicted that the dollar would "rebound" as world trade imbalances were righted through continued growth in the United States and economic recovery in Japan and Europe.

The U.S. did not want to achieve prosperity "through devaluation of the dollar," he told a news conference ahead of the meeting here.

Mr. Clinton said the U.S., which was leading the world

out of a global recession, "should be very concerned about the value of our dollar."

"And we should tell the world that we do not wish to have a low dollar so that we can have more American goods bought (by foreigners) and so that we don't buy more foreign goods," he said.

Mr. Clinton, also called for more free trade as the way to boost economic recovery and overcome currency instability. He urged that last year's Uruguay Round agreement of GATT trade talks should be implemented before the end of the year.

The president said the summit would concentrate on ways to create jobs through continued economic recovery, and said that one of the best ways to do this was to maintain the momentum towards free trade.

Another summit focus, he said, would be the development of a world-wide tele-

communications network of electronic information highways.

The summiters would also tackle the "explosive mix" of overpopulation and environmental degradation, and the continuing need to help the economies of Russia, eastern Europe and other countries of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Clinton said the United States had no intention of seeking prosperity through the devaluation of the dollar.

The United States was leading the world out of recovery and had no interest in currency devaluation which might retard global economic growth, he said.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said the United States and Japan are concerned about dollar-yen exchange rate stability but global economic growth prospects are excellent.

Japanese Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama called

for economic cooperation between the United States, Japan and other countries to stabilise exchange rates.

But, speaking at a joint press conference with Mr. Clinton, he also said:

"I don't think there will be (currency) stability immediately. Countries around the world, especially Japan and the United States, should follow policies conducive to more stable exchange rates in cooperation with each other."

Mr. Clinton said: "I think it is important not to over-react (to the fall of the dollar)."

And a senior U.S. official said that the summit of industrialised countries would take no decisions on coordinated action to stop currency instability.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Murayama had earlier met for the first time, mainly to discuss bilateral trade problems.

Jordanian stocks continue dip in shedding of 'superficial margins'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Share prices at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) plunged to an all-year low last week in what many brokers and analysts described as the shedding of "superficial" margins since the beginning of the year prompted by hopes of Jordanian firms gaining from the economic development of the occupied territories.

Investor enthusiasm raised by the news of Jordan securing creditors' agreement to reschedule more than \$1.34 billion of the Kingdom's foreign debts was overshadowed by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's choice to enter the Gaza Strip from Egypt rather than Jericho from the East Bank.

Brokers said many investors saw Mr. Arafat's move as a clear sign of a scaled-down level of cooperation between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan. In turn, it cast questions over economic relations between the Palestinian territories and Jordan and the fate of the Jan. 7 economic agreement between the two sides.

The economic agreement had boosted the stocks of Jordanian companies seen poised to gain from activities in the occupied territories. But in the emerging situation, investors were also scaling down their hopes and hence part of the drop in the share prices, brokers said.

"Bulls are at work in the market," said another broker. "They point to the provincial half-empty part of the glass to provoke price de-

clines and get new acquisitions before returning to the floor with pointers to the half-full part of the glass to make profits."

By and large, brokers said, prices could go down a bit more before responding to the improved economic situation of the country following the debt rescheduling agreements and against prospects for a write-off of part or full of Jordan's nearly \$1 billion debt to the United States.

Trading was also low during the week, with turnover declining 31 per cent to JD 3.9 million from the previous week's JD 5.7 million.

Industrial stock accounted for JD 1.9 million, or 48.7 per cent, of the volume, followed by commercial banks with JD 1.3 million, or 33.4 per cent, the services sector with JD 500,000, or 12.8 per cent, and insurance stock with JD 200,000, or 5.1 per cent.

The AFM report said 1.7 million shares changed hands under 2,608 contracts during the week.

"There was a bit of panic selling last week, accounting for the drop in prices, but most investors are staying away from the floor, awaiting better signs of improvement in the economy," said a banking official who handles AFM portfolios.

The weekly AFM report said the general share price index closed at 146.9 points, down 3.9 points, or 2.6 per cent, from the week's open-

ing. Seventy-four of the 86 companies whose shares were traded during the week showed losses as trading closed; only seven companies showed gains and five remained stable.

The general share price index opened at 158.5 points on Jan. 1, 1994, and went up to 168 points in March, two months after the signing of the Jordan-PLO agreement and shortly before major companies distributed dividends.

In April 1993, the index stood at 138.5 points before rising to 151.9 points in May and continuing to go up throughout the year.

A closer look at the sector indices showed that the drop was more pronounced last week stocks of service companies. The services sector index dropped by 5.3 points, or 3.8 per cent, compared with 4.5 points, or 3.3 per cent, in the industrial sector, 3.3 points, or two per cent, in the banking sector, and 1.5 points, or one per cent, in the insurance sector.

"It is clear that the drop in prices represents a shedding of the superficial increases that came since the last year," said a broker. "By and large, shares are moving closer to their real value based on the actual performance of companies rather than prospects of Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 9, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Keep your end of the bargain with associates for mutual gain even though some of the conditions changed from your original understanding and your share of the benefit is less.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Find out how you stand with others and do whatever is needed to improve relations. Try to understand the views of a loved one.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make new acquaintances who can help to enrich your life in many ways. Attend a group meeting which is worthwhile to your progress.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Study your surroundings and make plans for improvement. Allow time to engage in your favourite hobby with congenial friends.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take part in new activities which are fine for you but first know all the facts concerning them. Think constructively.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your mate may have a change of attitude, so go along with new ideas for best results. Take it easy tonight and express happiness.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Show more interest in

civic affairs and gain the respect of others. You can make this a most productive day for you on a new project.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Improve your environment so that it is more inspiring and brings you greater comfort. Strive for increased happiness with your mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Listen to what a good friend has to suggest for greater pleasure ahead. Take health treatments and improve your overall appearance.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get rid of whatever is causing disharmony at home and be happier in the future. Put your talents to work on a new assignment.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be sure to study a new project well before you put it into operation or there could be problems. Don't take any risks which could prove costly.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make long-range plans that could give you added income in the future. Come to a better understanding with family members.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are likely to be upset about matters you can't change, so concentrate on whatever brings you inner peace and serenity in your life.

Dollar expected to trade at DM 1.55 in 12 months time

This report, which covers the week from Thursday June 30, 94 until Wednesday, July 6, 94 was provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch-Dubai.

Overview

Fundamental view: The dollar closed in Tokyo Wednesday at a record low of JPY/USD 98.3 and trading even lower, in New York. The U.S. unit also remains below the bottom of the DM/USD 1.60-1.70 range we had expected to prevail for much of this year. Sentiment on the dollar is bearish ahead of the Group of Seven summit on July 8-10 as comments from officials suggest the dollar will not be the primary focus of the meeting. An aggressive hike in U.S. interest rates appears necessary to support the dollar, but domestic fundamentals do not warrant a move at this time and we do not expect the Fed to raise rates solely to support the dollar.

We recently revised down our outlook for the dollar against European currencies, and we maintain our cautious view of the dollar's prospects against the yen. We now expect the dollar to trade at the DM/USD 1.55 level in 12 months time compared to our previous forecast of DM/USD 1.70. We maintain our 12-month forecast for the dollar at JPY/USD 95.

Technical view: The U.S. dollar was able to post solid gains against the European currencies during the week ended July 1. This offset continued weakness versus the Japanese yen and allowed the dollar index to post its first weekly gain in four weeks with a return of 0.4%. For the month of June, the index fell 3.1% this was the largest monthly loss since August 1992.

On the whole, medium term sentiment indicators are viewed as being near overbought. Short term momentum has picked up and is coming off of its most deeply oversold reading in almost two years. Medium term oscillators maintain their balancing act, and some positive divergences can be detected.

However, the inability of the index to respond to these generally constructive medium term indicators remains a troublesome sign of weakness. It will likely require a rally decisively through 91.00 to turn these oscillators back up again; a move through 92.90-93.50 will be needed to penetrate the multi-month downward channel. Important chart and Fibonacci support exists at 88.30-88.55.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The dollar continues to set new postwar record lows against the yen. U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen has stated clearly that the U.S. favours a stronger dollar and is not using the dollar as a tool for trade policy, but the dollar remains under pressure.

We maintain our view that the dollar will eventually reach the JPY/USD 95 level over the next 6-to-12 months. We expect any statements pointing to improved U.S.-Japan trade relations will have relatively little impact and we do not believe that the U.S. administration or the Fed is willing to raise interest rates aggressively to defend the dollar. It is

difficult to see trade concessions coming from Japan's new prime minister from the Socialist Democratic Party, Mr. Murayama.

Even with the recent hike in U.S. interest rates and low overnight rates in Japan, it is not clear that Japanese investors are willing or able to finance Japan's huge current account imbalance after having suffered large losses on foreign and domestic investments in recent years. We continue to expect Japan to post a current account surplus of more than \$125 billion this year.

We expect the weight of that surplus and weak capital outflows from Japan to eventually push the dollar toward our 12-month target of 95 yen.

Technical view: The Japanese yen gained 1.9% versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended July 1, including a move to new all-time highs. For the month of June, the currency gained 6.4%. This was the best performance of the six currencies we most regularly monitor. Even so, sentiment remains only neutral, although it has been deteriorating recently. Short term momentum remains constructive. Medium term oscillators continue to diverge importantly from the recent currency strength, but are beginning to feel the pressure. This divergence suggests that, although still higher yen highs appear probable, such short term strength may only be part of a potentially important top. Such a divergence would further build the evidence that the rally from at least last March's low, and quite likely from last January's low is in its latter stages.

Given that long term oscillators are also deteriorating, the currency may in coming weeks be in position for its most extended period of weakness in months. Supports at 106-112 Y/USD are viewed as being significant; a breakdown through that range would do much to confirm the existence of a top. Benchmark resistance exists near 97.20, then below 93.

Deutschmark

Fundamental view: The dollar continues to trade below the bottom of the DM/USD 1.60-1.70 range which we had expected to prevail for much of this year. Although U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen has stated that the U.S. supports a stronger dollar, a number of factors are pointing towards a period of sustained dollar weakness in coming quarters. We recently revised down our outlook for the dollar against European currencies.

Factors prompting the forecast revision include (1) ongoing deterioration of the U.S. trade and current accounts accompanied by net outflows of long-term capital, (2) prospects for stronger growth in Europe and slower growth in the United States, (3) prospects of real interest rate differentials to start moving in favour of European currencies, and (4) the risk of continued weak confidence in U.S. economic and foreign policy among foreign investors.

Because the dollar is already at the weak end of its historic trading range and generally undervalued on a purchasing power parity basis, we expect further weakness to be rather modest. The key point is that the U.S. unit now seems unlikely

to rally on a sustained basis unless the Fed raises interest rates far more aggressively than domestic fundamentals warrant. We now expect the dollar to trade at the DM/USD 1.55 level in 12 months time compared to our previous forecast of DM/USD 1.70.

Technical View: The Deutschmark fell 0.7% against the U.S. dollar last week, but gained 3.8% for all of June. Medium term sentiment remains overbought. Short term momentum has reversed from an overbought condition and has the potential to remain downwardly biased for three weeks or so. Medium term momentum oscillators have not kept pace with recent price strength, but it will still require a decline back through the 1.62 DM/USD area to actually reverse these oscillators to the downside.

By contrast meaningful price support for the currency is not evident until near 1.64, while headline support does not come in until above 1.65. A test of 1993's highs at 1.566-1.588 is first resistance; a rally through 1.556 would allow for further strength through 1.52.

Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound followed the German mark higher against the dollar again this week, trading near U.S./GBP 1.54, but continued to trade lower against the DM, down to DM/GBP 2.44-another new low for 1994. Against the mark, we think that the pound is weaker than fundamentals call for and expect to see it trading back in the 2.50 range once the U.S. dollar stabilises against the mark. We expect the pound to continue trading higher against the dollar and be at 1.68 in 12-month time.

The encouraging picture of U.K. domestic fundamentals will continue to support the pound. Signs of stronger growth have caused the U.K. treasury to revise higher their growth forecasts for 1994 and 1995. Moreover, the favourable outlook for inflation has caused them to revise inflation forecasts lower. The treasury also lowered, though slightly, their estimate for the public sector borrowing requirement for 1994.

Furthermore, the latest OECD forecasts for the U.K. are even more optimistic than the treasury projections. The treasury and OECD forecasts support our view that U.K. base rates have bottomed and should not rise until late in the year. Another favourable report for the pound recently was a much lower than expected current account deficit for the first quarter. The current account report casts doubt on fears among several prominent U.K. economists that a current account crisis is brewing.

Technical view: The British pound lost 0.9% versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended July 1 and was the weakest of the six currencies we most regularly discuss. For all of June, the pound gained 2.2%. Sentiment is near overbought and deteriorating, short term momentum has peaked.

While the currency's multi-month trading range is still intact, medium term momentum configuration suggests that further strength toward the 1993-1994 high at \$1.586 U.S./£ is still possible. First support exists near \$1.51; the lower end of the trading range at \$1.46 is second support.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arington

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SOUP
IXTYS
VISPLE
TROUCY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WHAT THE SHOE REPAIR MAN WAS TO HIS FAMILY.

Answers tomorrow

Jumbles: KNELL ADAGE RECTOR BEDECK
Answer: What happened to the sailor who missed his ship? — HE WAS "DOCKED"

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

ACROSS

- 1 Aesthetic pursuits
- 4 Region
- 9 Game fish
- 13 Gazer
- 15 Mr. T's group
- 16 Exchange fee
- 17 I
- 18 50s play and film
- 20 Make resolute
- 22 Battle name
- 23 Legal claim
- 24 Method
- 25 Wisconsin
- 30 Crook's cover
- 31 Go too far
- 35 Homer's boy
- 37 Spread here and there
- 39 Busy place
- 40 Penguin
- 42 Famous Foster
- 43 Boy Scouts founder
- 46 Woolen cloth
- 50 Spireless
- 51 Skirt
- 52 Innate
- 58 Exhibition's scam
- 59 Opposite aft
- 60 Nose out
- 61 Artist Edgar
- 62 Styms
- 63 Sky look
- 64 Riffing ore
- 65 Viol

DOWN

- 1 Summit
- 2 Be nomadic
- 3 Sepulcher
- 4 Utter in a mechanical manner
- 5 Site of the Acropolis
- 6 Vagabond
- 7 Bar rail
- 8 Doctors' GP
- 9 Groundwork
- 10 Embassy
- 11 Military encirclement
- 12 Sin city
- 14 Follow closely
- 15 Home appliance
- 21 Bonds
- 24 Wormy
- 25 Run case
- 26 NASA's
- 27 Shepher
- 28 Bike type
- 29 1971 betting
- 30 cramp, Joe
- 32 Behaves in an ostentatious way
- 33 Ebb or rip
- 34 Malefic
- 35 Flake
- 37 Kanton or Laurel
- 38 Denson or Williams
- 41 Dwelling
- 42 Employment
- 44 Par for the course
- 45 Clergyman
- 46 Chapin co-star
- 47 Schemer
- 48 Resort hotel
- 49 Big cat
- 52 Senate goner
- 53 Corner
- 54 Parry's lake
- 55 Court (upper)
- 57 Short routes
- 58 Spender

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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- 2 DOWN
- 3 DOWN
- 4 DOWN
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July is like

Brazil look for revenge 20 years later

DALLAS, Texas (AFP) — Twenty years after being beaten 2-0 by Holland in a World Cup finals match, Brazil finally get a chance for revenge when the two sides meet in the quarter-finals here on Saturday.

In 1974 the Dutch team went on to finish runners-up to West Germany. But the 1994 side is a mere shadow of their glory days of "total football" under the guidance of Johan Cruyff and Brazil remain firm favourites to win a record fourth World Cup.

Holland had what many considered the easiest qualifying group in the tournament, Belgium, Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

But though they had few problems making the second round, they did little to suggest they were title contenders.

It was only against Ireland in the second round that the Dutch found some sort of form, but even then they were helped in their 2-0 win by some terrible Irish defensive blunders.

But their play was enough for Dutch captain Ronald Koeman to say Holland is finally heading in the right direction.

"We need to play like we did in the first 45 minutes against the Irish. That was easily our best performance to date. Against Brazil we need to play like that for 90 minutes," Koeman said.

That plus the fact that Brazil, after a stunning opening match against Russia, are



Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira (left) talks with newly activated Cafu during the team's last practice in Santa Clara, California, before leaving for Dallas where Brazil will face Holland in the World Cup quarter-finals on July 9 (AFP photo).

having difficulty getting going, gives the Dutch confidence they can upset the South Americans.

"We are getting better and the Brazilians seem to be getting worse," said coach Dick Advocaat on Thursday.

"Obviously you cannot dismiss a team like Brazil with all the great players they have, but on our current form we have plenty of reasons to feel confident about the match."

One of the biggest dangers is Brazil's Barcelona striker Romario, and no one knows it better than his Barcelona teammate Koeman.

"It is going to be a little bit special playing against Romario. He is so dangerous, you can't mark him for 90 minutes. He is going to get free at least once and cause

us problems," said Koeman. "But," warns Koeman, "We must not just concentrate on Romario. That would be a big mistake. We must look out for everyone."

The Dutch have been boosted by the return of Jan Wouters after a one match suspension.

The PSV Eindhoven midfielder star is as tough as they come, and is not shy about stopping the opposition with whatever it takes.

But the nagging calf injury to 21-year-old Marc Overmars, who missed training on Thursday, is causing concern.

Overmars and Brian Roy are the striking wing force that Advocaat hopes will torment the Brazilian defence. Without Overmars' stunning speed the Dutch attack will be blunted.

Parreira has no such prob-

lems. His squad is fully fit. The Brazilian coach dismisses suggestions that his team has still to rediscover the form that dissected Russia, pointing to the 1-0 win over the United States.

"The final score may have been 1-0, but it could just easily have been 5-0 we had so many chances," he said.

The combination of Romario and Bebeto up front should stretch the not so fast Dutch defence and put Brazil, the sole remaining South American team in the last 16, in the semi-finals.

Apart from looking for their first World Cup trophy for 24 years Brazil is a team on a mission — to cheer up a nation still in mourning over the death of world motor racing champion Ayrton Senna.

"Following the death of Senna our performance in the World Cup became even more important. His memory is driving the players," said Parreira.

Brazil should get their revenge for 1974, and the nation find relief for their grief.

Probable teams

Brazil: Taffarel; Jorginho, Cafu, Marcio Santos, Aldair, Mauro Silva, Dunga (capt), Zinho, Mazinho, Bebeto, Romario.

Holland: Ed De Goey; Frank De Boer, Ronald Koeman (capt), Stan Valckx, Frank Rijkaard, Wim Jonk, Jan Wouters, Aron Winter, Marc Overmars, Dennis Bergkamp, Peter van Vossen.

Show-jumping championship

Hundreds of spectators Friday gathered at the Arabian Horse Club in Amman to support more than 30 riders participating in a show-jumping championship, organised by Air France and the club. Participants competed in four classes: The elementary, novice, advanced and grand prix classes. Shireen Rasekh, aged 14, won the elementary class, Sa'ed Kayali, 14, ranked first in the novice class, while the advanced and grand prix classes were won by Muna Sukhtian, 20. Prince Ali Bin Nayef presented trophies to the winners of the first three positions in each class. Photo above shows rider Suzan Abu Ragheb who competed, in the elementary class. Below, Rami Khouri is heading towards the finish line in the novice class before being eliminated from the championship (photos by Rana Hussein).



Spain clears its injured, full strength against Italy

FOXBORO, Mass. (Agencies) — Spain should be at top strength for the first time in the tournament for Saturday's World Cup quarter-final against Italy.

Team doctors Thursday cleared starters midfielder Fernando Hierro and fellow Real Madrid teammate defender Rafael Alkorta. Both had been nursing strained muscles.

All 22 players took part in training Thursday at the Mid-Jersey School northwest of Boston.

"Physically speaking, the side is 10 out of 10 and problem-wise we're at zero," said medical Services Chief Enrique Gonzalez-Ruano.

Sanctions are the main reason why Spain hasn't had its full squad available since starting the tournament June 17.

Veteran goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta missed the opening match against South Korea because of a qualifying-round red card while sweeper Miguel Nadal missed the following two games for being sent off.

Jose Luis Caminero then scored two goals to help beat Bolivia 3-1 but a second yellow card in the final seconds

ruled him out of the second-round match against Switzerland.

While coach Javier Clemente has given no clue to the strategy he plans to use, the training session indicated he will repeat the heavily defensive lineup relying on fast counterattacks from the midfield which allowed Spain to destroy Switzerland 3-0.

Most of the players expect a close game Saturday at Foxboro Stadium with Spain initially concentrating on cancelling out Italian strikers Roberto Baggio and Giuseppe Signori.

"It will be a very physical game with few goals," said midfielder Josep Guardiola. "Clemente's idea that the side who scores first will win might come through but both sides have players capable of turning the game around."

He denied that Spain would play defensively and noted that the team has one of the highest goal averages in this World Cup: 9-4.

"There's a little contradiction, but I don't see us as solely defensive," said Guardiola. "The thing is we have several exceedingly fast players who can get up there and

on the wings our full backs are extremely dangerous."

Spain will hold a closed-door practice at the stadium Friday.

Spain has reached the quarterfinals four times but only once advanced to the semifinals, in 1950 in Brazil. Spain are planning an all-out attack on an Italy side weakened by their gruelling extra-time victory over Nigeria when they meet in the World Cup quarter-finals here on Saturday.

Italy has been boosted by Roberto's "awakening," but coach Arrigo Sacchi has little to count on but adrenaline from Tuesday's match to compensate for lack of recovery time.

"Logically Spain are the favourites," said forward Giuseppe Signori. "We are

very tired." Midfielder Nicola Berti is expected to drop out and there is a doubt about Roberto Mussi, the right back who suffered severe cramps late in Tuesday's game.

Sacchi has no plans to change his back four provided Mussi comes through. But he was not happy with Italy's midfield against Nigeria and has been experimenting with Roberto Donadoni on the left and Juventus' Antonio Conte, who could bring fresh legs in his first appearance, on the right.

That would mean Signori, who plays up front for his club Lazio and has had difficulty lasting 90 minutes in the exhausting wide midfield role, dropping out.

Baggio shy of messiah status

MARTINSVILLE, New Jersey (AFP) — Roberto Baggio may have saved Italy's World Cup but the diminutive forward is not happy about being hailed as his country's messiah. "I'm not Italy's saviour," the painfully shy Baggio whispered on Wednesday as he reflected on the two goals that allowed ten-man Italy to come from a goal down to beat Nigeria in extra-time. "I'm still the same person and the same player I was yesterday. Everybody exaggerated how bad I was in the previous games, now they are exaggerating how good I was in this one." Baggio, who frequently gives the impression he would rather be at home hunting in his beloved Tuscan hills than putting up with the relentless pressure involved with an Italian World Cup campaign, was philosophical about the fine thread that separates success and failure. "If the shot I scored with had hit the post we would have lost. I would be a failure and Arrigo Sacchi would probably be finished as national coach."

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Italians prepare for another defensive game

MARTINSVILLE, N.J. (AP) — They've battled through four defensive struggles already, and the Italians are bracing for another.

"Our destiny, in this World Cup, is to play opponents who just wait for our moves, to possibly strike back," said midfielder Demetrio Albertini.

"We must try to play an offensive match without forgetting defence, without leaving too much forward."

After losing their opener to a very defensive Ireland team, Norway was worse and then came Mexico. Nigeria played for the counter-attack, especially after getting the early lead, and now comes Spain in Saturday's quarterfinal at Foxboro, Mass.

"We have been struggling throughout, after losing the World Cup opener against Ireland," Italy's Captain-defender Paolo Maldini said Thursday. "Now we are prepared to play another decisive, tough match against a defensive team with a strong midfield."

"Spain fields just one forward, a sort of 9-1 tactic. But they can be very dangerous in counterattacks. They proved it against Switzerland."

Spain qualified for the quarterfinals by beating the Swiss 3-0.

Neither Albertini nor Maldini, both of whom play for AC Milan, see Saturday's game as a sort of rematch of the European Champions Cup final where Milan beat Spanish league winner FC Barcelona 4-0.

Five players from AC Milan and six from Barcelona are likely to start in Saturday's game.

"Different teams, different coaches and different tactics are involved," Maldini said. "Barcelona played with three defenders in Athens. Spain fields seven defenders. It's a team with a high morale and a great physical condition. It could be a spectacular game after all."

Several Italian players said they expected a big game out of Roberto Baggio, who apparently has shaken a personal funk by scoring two goals to lift Italy past Nigeria in the second round.

The pride, or ego, of the 1993 FIFA player of the year was bruised when he was replaced against Norway. Baggio, at the time hobbled by an inflamed Achilles' tendon and in the midst of an

eight-game scoreless slump, was pulled for goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani.

Marchegiani had to go in because starting keeper Gianluca Pagliuca was red carded for a handball outside the penalty area.

"I'm sure that Roberto's crisis is over. He was another man, another player, after scoring against Nigeria," Albertini said. "We all expect a lot from him against Spain."

As coach Arrigo Sacchi took a scheduled day away from the media on Thursday, speculation abounded about possible changes in Italy's lineup for the match with Spain: would Marchegiani, continue in place of Pagliuca; and what about the front line.

Lazio's diminutive striker Giuseppe Signori said he could not believe reports that he may be dropped from Saturday's starting lineup.

"I would be surprised, if I'm left out," said the Lazio forward who led the Italian league in scoring last season. "I'm fit, rested, ready to play. I gave it all in the previous games, playing the way Sacchi asked me to play at midfield."

"Sacchi always asks us to sacrifice for the team. I always did it," added Signori, who said he was surprised to be replaced in the second half against Nigeria. "When a player is removed, you always hope that your number is not displayed."

Italian doctors said Signori and midfielder Nicola Berti showed the most fatigue after both games in which Italy had to play a man short, plus the 30 minutes of extra

time against Nigeria.

Berti, who had a lackluster performance against Nigeria, may be replaced by Antonio Conte of Juventus, while the defense would be left unchanged with Antonio Benarrivo and Roberto Mussi starting as backs and Maldini and Alessandro Costacurta in the centre of the defence.

Pagliuca is available after serving an automatic two-game suspension for his red card, but Marchegiani has played very well in his absence.

"Luca does not deserve to be kicked out," Pagliuca said. "Certainly Sacchi is going to take a difficult decision, because I think to deserve my place back."

Whatever the decisions, they had better work because Sacchi and the rest of the Azzurri have no limit to their critics.

Three-time Olympic Alpine ski champion Alberto Tomba on Italian Radio Thursday called Sacchi a "very lucky coach," and that he relies on "a saint who makes wonders, St. Roberto (Baggio)."

During the final half against Nigeria, television repeatedly showed an agitated Sacchi, standing and barking instructions to his players. It became worse until Baggio tied the game in the 89th minute and then scored the game winner in extra time.

"For sure Sacchi is facing a severe pressure," Albertini said. "I still feel shivers when I think of the risks he took against Nigeria. At one moment we all felt that elimination (from the World Cup) was impending."

ANNONCE

Les français résidant ou de passage en Jordanie sont cordialement invités au dîner-buffet que donnera l'ambassadeur de France à l'occasion de la Fête Nationale, le jeudi 14 Juillet à partir de 21h 00, à la résidence de l'ambassadeur.

Les personnes n'ayant pas reçu leur invitation sont priées de se présenter au Consulat, munis d'une pièce d'identité, afin de la retirer. Celle-ci sera demandée à l'entrée.

Une tenue correcte est exigée pour cette occasion.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT (FEMALE)

A leading commercial and industrial company in Amman-Jordan is seeking to recruit a highly distinguished and well-qualified personal assistant for its general manager. Applicants should be in possession of a university degree with a minimum of 5 years experience as a senior secretary, and must have excellent command of English and Arabic languages.

Salary and generous fringe benefits will be determined on basis of merits, commensurate with the qualifications, experience and job requirements of the successful candidate.

Only very well qualified and distinguished applicants are invited to forward their CVs (quoting their telephone numbers) not later than 25 July 1994 to:

THE ADMINISTRATION MANAGER
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N.B.: All applications will be treated with strict confidentiality.

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Kindly contact the school administration, personally, on Monday or Tuesday, July 11th, between 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Argentine coach says he'll quit

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentine coach Alfio Basile said Thursday he would step down in the wake of the two-time champion's disappointing performance in the World Cup. "We all worked with great hopes of getting the title," Basile, 51, said after returning from the United States. "But I live in this country, where finishing second isn't sufficient. So the coaching staff will step aside." Basile, who took over after the 1990 World Cup, coached Argentina to Americas Cup titles in 1991 and 1993. But the team was eliminated by Romania in the World Cup's second round Sunday after losing Diego Maradona in a drug scandal. Basile may not leave until his contract ends at the end of this year. Argentine media suggest leading candidates to replace him include Daniel Passarella, coach of local club River Plate, Carlos Bianchi, who coaches Velez Sarsfield, and Jorge Solari, the Argentine coach of the Saudi Arabian national team. Argentina won its first two World Cup games against Greece and Nigeria. But it was disorganised in losing to Bulgaria and Romania after Maradona was suspended from the tournament for testing positive for five banned substances.

German coach might quit

CHICAGO (AP) — Germany's soccer chief fears that coach Bert Vogts may quit after the World Cup because of media criticism. Vogts says he will talk to the officials at the German Football Federation (DFB) after the World Cup. "I fear that Bert Vogts might leave after the World Cup because of attacks from parts of the media," DFB President Egidius Braun said. Mr. Braun was speaking in an interview with the newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. The interview will appear in Friday's editions, but the newspaper released the text of the interview in advance. Vogts, in an interview with Germany's SAT-1 television station, did not rule out leaving the post. He has an open-ended contract that can run until his retirement in 2006. "We'll talk in peace after the World Cup," Vogts said. "We'll talk about soccer-related matters, but also about other things. There is always such a talk after a World Cup. We'll see what happens," Vogts said. Vogts was harshly criticised by the German sports media for Germany's lackluster performances in early games. The Germans are defending champions and will meet Bulgaria in the quarterfinals.

France wins men's team epee, Romania wins women's team foil

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — France beat Germany 5-2 in the final of the men's team epee event, and Romania's women's foil team beat the Italian team 5-4 at the World Fencing Championships in Athens on Thursday. The French epee team, which placed second in the event in Essen, Germany, last year, beat defending champion Italy 5-0 in an earlier round. Germany was third last year. Korea beat Cuba 5-3 for third place this year. Jean-Michel Henry and Eric Srecki each won two bouts for the French team and Robert Leroux won one. Arnd Schmitt and Mariusz Strzalka won the German team's two bouts. In the women's team foil event, Romania was second last year and Italy was third. Hungary beat defending champion Germany 5-4 for third place this year. Laura Badea won all three of her bouts for Romania, with one each won by Reka Szabo-Lazar and Elisabeta Tufan. Giovanna Trillini and Valentina Vezzali each won two of their bouts for the Italian team. Szabo-Lazar beat Vezzali in the women's individual foil event on Tuesday. The championships ended Friday.

Former heavyweight champion's condition improving

COLOMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Former heavyweight champion James "Buster" Douglas was alert and joking with nurses Thursday, according to his father, Bill Douglas visited with his son, who was being treated for diabetic keto-acidosis in the Coronary Care Unit at Grant Medical Centre. Diabetic keto-acidosis is a type of diabetes common in children who are not able to produce insulin. Douglas, 34, remained in serious but stable condition Thursday, said hospital spokesman Stephen Shrivinsky. Douglas, who was admitted Monday, should be hospitalised for "a couple more days," his father said. "Today he was really back to normal," Douglas previously had not been diagnosed as diabetic, his father said. "He was going back into the gym just to get in shape," Bill Douglas said. "But he couldn't do a lot of what he was used to. That's when we decided he better get to the hospital." Douglas was at his Columbus home when he became ill. The Columbus Dispatch, citing sources it did not identify, reported Douglas had blood sugar level of about 800 when he was admitted. A normal level is between 80 and 120. Douglas was the heavyweight champion for eight months. He was a 42-1 underdog when he won the title in February 1990 with a 10th-round knockout of then-undefeated Mike Tyson in Tokyo. Eight months later, an out-of-condition Douglas lost his first title defence to Evander Holyfield in three rounds. Douglas weighed 104 kgs when he defeated Tyson and 111 kgs against Holyfield. Douglas is now said to weigh more than 157 kgs. Douglas took home a 24.1 million purse for the Holyfield fight. He has a career record of 30-5-1 and has unofficially retired.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A Q 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
What do you bid now?
Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A Q 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
What do you bid now?
Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A Q 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
What do you bid now?
Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A Q 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
What do you bid now?
Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A Q 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
What do you bid now?
Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A Q 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
What do you bid now?

Swedes stand by pre-tournament prediction

MORAGA, Calif. (AP) — Two to Go. Before the World Cup, nine players said Sweden would reach the final. One optimistic was Klas Ingesson, who is standing by his pre-tournament prediction.

"We can beat all teams that are left in the tournament," Ingesson said heading into Sunday's quarterfinal match against Romania at Stanford Stadium. "Tying Brazil (in the first round) gave us so much confidence."

Even without striker Martin Dahlin, who has four goals in the World Cup but was suspended for accumulated yellow cards, Sweden took a 1-0 halftime lead against Brazil on Kenneth Andersson's goal.

Sweden became Nordic champions in early June, finishing ahead of European champion Denmark and World Cup-bound Norway. Can they become world champions?

Ingesson doesn't look that far, but "I'd be extremely disappointed if we lose on Sunday," he says.

"I've never played on a better Swedish team and I doubt Sweden will ever have a side like this one again."

Ingesson, who turns 26 next month, has 46 caps for Sweden since his 1989 debut and was a member of the team that finished third at the European Championship two years ago.

The British odds makers also like unbeaten Sweden's chances in the World Cup. After the first round, Sweden was listed as the fourth choice (9-1) behind Brazil, Germany and Italy.

Ingesson, who also plays for PSV Eindhoven in the Dutch first division and one



Today's matches

Italy vs. Spain at Foxboro, Mass. at 19:05 Amman time.
Brazil vs. the Netherlands at Dallas at 22:35 Amman time.

of 11 foreign-based men on the roster, will face one of his club teammates on Sunday—defender-midfielder George Popescu.

"George is one of my best friends on PSV Eindhoven," Ingesson says. "He's very strong in the air and I think he'll mark Kenneth (Andersson)."

Andersson is the tallest Swedish player at 193 centimetres. He has scored three goals in the tournament, including two in a 3-1 victory over Saudi Arabia in the second round.

Ingesson was inconsistent in midfield during the first round, but played his best game of the tournament against the Saudis. Lack of training was the main reason why Ingesson looked rusty early in the tournament.

In May, he was forced to wear a neck brace for three weeks after hitting a moose with his car on his way to a golf course in Sweden. Then, on his second workout in the United States, he bruised his thigh.

Ingesson was already known as "moose man." A



Members of Sweden's World Cup team do sprinting drills during a team practice at Saint Mary's College July 6. The Swedes are in northern California in preparation for their World Cup quarter-final match against Romania at Stanford, July 10 (AFP photo).

former woodchopper, Ingesson's favourite hobby is elk hunting, and his long, powerful strides have been compared with those of a moose on the loose.

Ingesson scored off a rebound for Sweden in a 1-1 tie with Romania on June 12 at mission Viejo, Calif., both teams' final World Cup tuneup.

"We were clearly the better team in that match despite the fact that we didn't have our best team while they did. And we're better now," Ingesson said.

The key to beating Romania is to close down its options in midfield — i.e. George Hagi, who has three goals and is a leading candidate for most valuable

Hagi 'smells' a Romania victory over Sweden

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Gheorghe Hagi's nose has found the goal three times so far at the World Cup. Now it's detecting another scent.

"I can smell our victory in the air," the Romanian midfielder said about Sunday's quarterfinal match against Sweden at Stanford, Calif. "It's a sweet smell."

Hagi's brilliant passes and three goals at the World Cup have propelled Romania to the World Cup final eight for the first time. Against Argentina in the second round, Hagi set up one goal and scored another to lead a 3-2 victory.

"The match against Argentina proved we can beat any team in the world," Hagi said. "The Swedes are paper favourites, but soccer is not played on paper."

Hagi, dubbed "the Maradona of the Carpathians," is the team strategist who sets the direction and intensity of a game. He roams around in midfield, setting up plays using his remarkable dribbling skills and amazing accurate passes.

Swedish coach Tommy Svensson was impressed by Romania's attacking play against 1990 finalist Argentina in the round-of-16 and points to Hagi as the man to stop.

"Hagi has been the outstanding player of the tournament," Svensson says. "His split vision is fantastic. He's fast, technically very strong and dangerous at free kicks. He also makes other players good."

"It will be our toughest task so far. The Romanians were impressive in all games except the one against Switzerland when they showed low team morale."

But Hagi, 29, has other plans. "I know my value. I know what I have to do to lead my team to the semifinals and possibly finals," Hagi said. "Imagine: Romania against Brazil at the Rose Bowl. It would be the dream come true for every Romanian."

The winner of the Sweden-Romania match will play winner of the Netherlands-Brazil match in a semifinal on July 13 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

"We waited all our lives for this opportunity," said Romanian coach Anghel Iordanescu. "Much of the outcome depends on how Hagi plays."

Iordanescu closed Romania's practice session at Santa Clara University for the public and reporters on Thursday, secretly plotting tactics for the match against Sweden.

"Sweden has a powerful attack and physical defence, but we have our own strengths," Iordanescu said. "Only one mistake could decide the whole match."

"Our advantage is in the deadly line consisting of Hagi, Raducioiu and (Ilie) Dumitrescu," said defender Gheorghe Popescu.

Dumitrescu, who scored two goals and set another against Argentina, said Romania was ready for another World Cup upset.

"We will play without any psychological pressure since we have already accomplished what only a few had dreamed of before the World Cup," he said. "So, the victory is ours."

Germany's Rome hero benched in 1994

CHICAGO (AP) — Andreas Brehme has not scored many goals in his international career. One is historic, however.

Brehme gave Germany the 1990 World Cup title by scoring the only goal in the championship match against Argentina.

He converted a penalty that no other player dared take.

Captain Lothar Matthaus was the designated penalty shooter. But he had to change shoes because of a broken sole and didn't have the right feeling in the new one. So he asked Brehme to take it.

Brehme faced goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea, whose heroics in stopping penalties had taken Argentina to the final.

Brehme's nerves held and he slotted the ball home with his right foot, just inside the post, and Germany lifted the World Cup title.

Four years later, the hero of Rome is back, but this time he is in the uncustomary role of a substitute. Unhappy

with Brehme's early performances, coach Bert Vogts has dropped him from the starting lineup.

Brehme retired from the national team after the 1992 European Championship and his international career seemed over with the emergence of young Christian Ziege.

Like Brehme, Ziege plays on the left flank and his main job is to defend. But a significant part of the task is to make deep runs and send useful crosses for the forwards, something Brehme was known for.

Ziege received rave reviews for his performances during last summer's U.S. cup, a World Cup warm-up tournament Germany won.

But he then went into a slump and Vogts recalled Brehme, who made a successful comeback in a 2-1 victory over Brazil in November.

Ziege's troubles continued with an injury that took him off the World Cup, and Brehme was back firmly on the left flank.



Brazilian Mauro Silva (C) is surrounded by American high school girls during the team's last practice in the bay area before leaving for Dallas. Brazil will face Holland in the World Cup quarter-finals in Dallas Saturday (AFP photo).

Orlando sees good and bad from soccer championship

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The World Cup has produced both winners and losers in Orlando, with downtown bars, restaurants and hotels profiting — some of them hugely.

But the Orlando area's world famous theme parks and family-oriented attractions saw few boosts in lower-than-normal summertime attendance.

Sales of Heineken, a Dutch brew, were up 440 per cent for Wayne Densch Inc., the area's largest beer distributor. Church Street Station, a downtown nighttime entertainment complex, sold about 2,000 kgs of beer and reported 50 per cent higher profits.

Preliminary figures show that about 45,000 foreign visitors came to Central Florida during the five World Cup soccer matches held in Orlando, spending about \$13.5 million. Those figures do not count soccer fans living in the United States who travelled here.

But what that shows, according to Joe Mittiga, spokesman for the Orlando-Orange County Convention and Visitors Bureau, is that the World Cup crowds were not especially free-spending. Many of the mostly male

fans bunked four and five to a room and didn't visit theme parks much, preferring to party near the Florida Citrus Bowl Stadium both before and after each game.

"They were here for World Cup, and they brought with them a party atmosphere," Mr. Mittiga said.

Cheryl Taubensee, executive director of the Central Florida Hotel and Motel Association, said the tournament probably boosted June hotel occupancy in Metro Orlando to about 80 per cent, an improvement of several percentage points over the same period last year.

Businesses and attractions in the tourist corridor of international drive, experiencing a lull in tourism over past years, saw little change. "World Cup has really screwed up traffic," said Alvaro Ferreira, co-owner of Amec Centre, an electronics store in that part of town. "It hasn't done much for business."

But Wet 'N Wild, a water park in that area, was a hot spot for hot and weary soccer fans. General Manager Michael Black said attendance in the past two weeks was the strongest since a similar period in 1987.

The city earned \$300,000 from food and drink sales at the stadium, but its shuttle bus service lost thousands of expected riders and up to \$200,000 after traffic snags on the first day.

The city's estimated overall loss of \$560,000 will be offset by the concession sales and a \$250,000 state grant.

The Orlando Police Department spent about \$325,000 in overtime pay for officers assigned to security details at the stadium and downtown, said spokesman Mike Holloway. About half of that is paid by tournament organisers.

At Orlando International Airport, 91 specially chartered World Cup flights brought in 23,855 foreign visitors, officials said. There was no estimate of how many fans came on regularly scheduled flights.

Mayor Glenda Hood was upbeat Wednesday about the city's role as one of nine World Cup sites in the nation.

The long-term benefits in business, trade and favourable publicity are immeasurable, she said.

The five soccer matches raised Orlando's image to a new height, making the area "a part of the global market, an international city," said the mayor.

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	PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAN THEATRE	
	Michael J. Fox James Woods in The Hard Way Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Nabila Obeid and Farouk Al Fishawi in Unveiling The Secrets Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' Perfect World Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' 1) Curly Sue Shows: 3:30, 8:30 2) My Step Mother Shows: 12:30, 6:15, 10:15		Bob Hoskins in Super Mario Bros Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30		Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"		Present their play: WHAT A PEACE! (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tues days.	

Diplomat says S. Arabia funding extremist groups

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A Saudi Arabian diplomat seeking asylum in the United States says he saw secret documents that show his country funded terrorism aimed at disrupting Mideast peace efforts.

Mohammad Al Khilewi described the activities to the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) during a June 30 hearing, his lawyer, Leon Wildes, said in a statement.

An asylum application was filed on behalf of Mr. Khilewi and his family several days after he announced that he feared for his life after speaking out against human rights violations in his homeland.

Mr. Khilewi was a first secretary in the Saudi mission to the United Nations when he wrote to top Saudi officials May 17 stating his "sincere opposition to the current regime in Riyadh" and accusing it of using corruption to weaken the police.

Mr. Wildes said Mr. Khilewi told the INS in an affidavit that Saudi King Fahd "is slowly destroying our country and its neighbouring allies and is trying to continually encourage discord between Arabs, Muslims and Jews."

The Saudi ambassador, Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, has denied Mr. Khilewi's claims. Mr. Khilewi said his job at the mission gave him unlimited access to secret documents, "including originals and copies of other documents which clearly show Saudi Arabian funding of various terrorist activities and efforts."

According to the affidavit, Mr. Khilewi said he has "extensive information as to monies that have been for-

warded to various terrorist groups in Iraq from the Saudi Arabian regime to encourage such strife before the Gulf war, when Saudi Arabia and Iraq were indeed friends."

He added that he has "documentation and personal knowledge of monies that were sent to Egypt and other Gulf countries in an effort to support anti-Semitic attacks and activities against Jewish settlers in Israel and major Jewish organisations within the United States."

Mr. Wildes said in his statement that Mr. Khilewi showed the INS documents that show Saudi Arabia was eavesdropping illegally on conversations by the Jewish Defence League and other organisations in the United States and that some Saudi diplomats in the United States were actually spies.

Other documents, he said, show Saudi Arabia was spying on U.S. military installations. The lawyer said Mr. Khilewi also said the Saudis were funding "terrorist" organisations indirectly through other countries, including Hamas.

In another affidavit, Mr. Khilewi said he secretly taped a conversation between himself and Abdul Rachman Al Rassi, a fellow Saudi diplomat, who offered to pay him large sums of money and tried to get him to go to Washington after he complained to the Saudi leadership.

He said a tape recorder under his bed caught one of about 10 conversations the pair had on May 18.

On the tape, Mr. Rassi allegedly told Mr. Khilewi that he must go to Washington "today or your life, your wife and kid's lives will be in danger. Don't destroy this opportunity."



TASTING ITALY: U.S. President Bill Clinton bites into a pizza as he visits a Naples pizzeria during a walk through the town on Friday. Mr. Clinton is in Naples to attend the

summit of the Group of Seven nations (see page 8). Second right is U.S. Ambassador of Italy Reginald Bartholomew (AFP photo)

Killings of seamen in Algeria horrify Italians

ROME (R) — Italy reacted with horror on Friday to the killings of seven merchant seamen in Algeria and commentators said the slaughter showed that the West had to confront Islamic fundamentalism.

"Their throats slit in their sleep like beasts," ran a headline in the Independent newspaper, echoing the wave of shock and rage that the murders sent through the country.

The bodies of the seven, the entire crew of the grain ship Lucina, arrived on an Italian air force Hercules C-130 transport plane at a base near Naples.

The hometowns of the ship's seven crew, who ranged in age from 24 to 49, declared official days of mourning.

"We all have tears in our eyes," a friend of one victim told Italian Television. "This was an attack against the entire country."

The Thursday attack by suspected Muslim fundamentalists marked the start of the Group of Seven summit in Naples and commentators said the world's richest nations would have to take militancy seriously.

Milan's Corriere Della Sera said it was "no coincidence" that the attack came on the eve of the start of the

G-7 summit. It said the West had offered up a "clamorous demonstration of impotence" in dealing with the Algerian crisis.

"The civilised world cannot resign itself to this impotence during and after the G-7," Corriere said.

French government officials said they wanted the G-7 nations to discuss the danger of instability in Algeria, the rise of fundamentalism and its potential "threat" to Europe.

The killings in the port of Jijel, some 300 kilometres east of Algiers, brought to 42 the number of foreigners killed in Algeria since fighting erupted in 1992 between Muslim fundamentalist and security forces.

It was the second worst attack on foreigners. In December 12 Croat technicians were murdered, their throats also cut.

Algeria's Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, in a message to his Italian counterpart Silvio Berlusconi, called the latest killings "an abject action" and vowed to arrest and punish the attackers.

Mr. Sifi's message, reported by the official news agency APS, said the attack was "carried out by criminal hands with the aim of spreading death and desolation."

Iran accuses rebels of fuelling conflict

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran's top job judge on Friday accused the Iraq-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq opposition group of launching a campaign of bombings and assassinations aimed at kindling sectarian conflict.

Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi in a mass prayer sermon also criticised human rights organisations for what he said was their silence over the attacks, especially the bombing of Iran's holiest Shiite Muslim shrine on June 20 which killed 26 people.

He said the attack at the Imam Reza shrine in the northeastern city of Mashhad, the killing of two Christian preachers and several foiled bombings were all part of a plot directed from the Mujahideen headquarters in Iraq.

"The hypocrites (Mujahideen) wanted to start an internal war, creating a crisis first between Shiites and Sunnis and then if possible between minorities and the ruling power or the Shiites, so that the system would lose control..."

"(They planned) murders, explosions, killing of senior Christian clerics which were to be blamed on the people or the government or Sunnis or Shiites, so that people would say sectarian conflicts

are aggravated "Ayatollah Yazdi said.

The Mujahideen deny any responsibility and accuse the government of planting the Mashhad bomb and killing the priests to prepare grounds for further suppression of the opposition.

A Mujahideen statement issued in Paris on Thursday vowed that the group's army based in Iraq would soon "respond to the mullahs' innumerable crimes against the people of Iran by overthrowing the religious, terrorist dictatorship."

Iran's official news agency IRNA quoted security officials as saying their investigations had also revealed Mujahideen plans to blow up commercial offices linked to countries with good trade relations with Iran, including those of the British Airways and the German airline Lufthansa.

Iranian Television on Thursday showed three women arrested this week whom security officials said were among the main agents of the alleged Mujahideen campaign.

It showed two bombs, one hidden in the bottom of a black hand bag and the other inside a large prayer book,

(Continued on page 2)

25 face trial charged with subversion

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Twenty-five people are expected to go on trial at the State Security Court (SSC) this month charged with plotting and carrying out subversive actions aimed at toppling the regime and setting up an Islamic caliphate, local reports said Friday.

A 10-page charge sheet carried by the Arabic Al Rai daily showed that the case was the most serious yet of subversive plots in Jordan in recent years.

It said the ill-famous Saudi millionaire Osama Ben Laden, "who is known to support extremist activities," had extended financial help to the group through his supporters in Yemen.

Mr. Ben Laden, a Saudi citizen of Yemeni origin and who is believed to be living in Sudan and is disowned by his tribe, is not among the suspects to be tried.

The suspects will be charged with "forming an illegal organisation, conspiring to carry out terrorist activities, illegal possession of explosives with the intent to carry out subversive actions and covering up of crimes related to national security."

The charge sheet did not provide any name for the illegal organisation, but many of the suspects are said to be affiliated with the so-called Arab Afghan group — volunteers who fought with the Afghan Mujahideen against the 1980-90 Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Most of the Arab Afghans left Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. But not all of them have gone back to their countries, where they have records and face certain arrest and trial for subversion not related to their activities in Afghanistan.

According to the charge sheet, the objectives of the Jordanian group included "setting up an Islamic caliphate, fighting the infidel Arab regimes, resisting the peace process, using force to fight things forbidden in Islam and fighting the Jews and Americans by striking at their interests..."

The charge sheet, filed by the prosecutor of the State Security Court which tries capital offences, said 22 of the suspects were in detention and a Jordanian and two others — a Saudi Arabian and an Omani — were at large and would be tried in absentia.

The trial is expected to start around July 15. If convicted the suspects face prison terms ranging from five years to life.

The prosecution will be supported by 15 witnesses, and evidence to be produced in court include weapons, explosives, documents and books as well as confessions of the suspects, the charge sheet said.

Most of the suspects are under 25 and unemployed and hail from refugee camps and towns around Amman.

The cases stem from a series of explosions and aborted bombings at cinema houses, starting with a blast at a movie house in the Bakaa camp in July 1993 and two others at theatres in Amman and Zarqa.

Dozens were injured in the explosions, including one suspect whose legs were blown off when an explosive went off prematurely after he planted it at Zarqa's Salwa Theatre in early February.

Explosives planted at two other theatres and a supermarket were discovered and safely defused.

The movie houses targeted by the group were showing pornographic films and the supermarket was selling alcohol — thus the charge sheet's reference to "using force to fight things forbidden in Islam."

The group also planned to assassinate Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali in 1993 when he was serving as head of the Jordanian delegation to peace talks with Israel, according to the charge sheet.

It said two of the suspects posed as journalists and sought an interview with Dr. Majali during which they planned to attack him.

However, the plan went awry when Dr. Majali left the country unexpectedly, forcing the cancellation of the interview, it said.

The suspects are also accused of setting ablaze the car of a Palestinian activist in the Bakaa camp last year. The man was a known supporter of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations launched in Spain in 1991.

The group also plotted bombings in Aqaba and attacks against security officers, and in one case planned to kidnap the child of an intelligence officer and kept his house under surveillance, the charge sheet said.

Dates of the arrests of the accused varied, some preceding the cinema theatre blasts. This indicated that security forces had detained them in the course of investigations into aborted attacks.

The leader of the group was identified as Abdullah Hashaikh. The charge sheet said the group had divided the Kingdom into distinct areas of operations for various "sub-groups" headed by "emirs."

Mr. Hashaikh visited the Philippines where Mohammad Khalifeh, a Saudi national who is reportedly related to Mr. Ben Laden, ran a religious centre, the charge sheet said.

One of the "emirs," Zakaria Qassem, visited Yemen and was trained for three months in making explosives and using electronic components of toys as remote

controls for bombs, the charge sheet said.

It said the camp was run by Ben Laden supporters and that Mr. Qassem received \$10,000 from Abdul Majeed Zandani, described as a key aide to Mr. Ben Laden, to finance the activities of the group.

Mr. Ben Laden, who was reportedly one of the key financiers of "Arab Afghans" during the fight against the Red Army in Afghanistan, is accused by the governments of Yemen, Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria of supporting subversion in their countries through the former fighters in Afghanistan.

Egypt has announced a reward for information leading to his arrest. Reports indicate that Mr. Ben Laden is living in Sudan and is aligned with the Islamic Front of Hassan Al Tourabi.

The government of Saudi Arabia said last year it had revoked Mr. Ben Laden's Saudi citizenship. Shortly thereafter, an uncle of Mr. Ben Laden disowned the millionaire who reportedly amassed his wealth through lucrative construction contracts and oil deals in Saudi Arabia.

Most of the Jordanian volunteers who fought in Afghanistan are said to be former members of the Muslim Brotherhood who broke with the mainstream leadership of the Brotherhood whom they accused of being too docile and working in cooperation with the regime instead of trying to usurp power.

Two suspects are members of the Muslim Brotherhood, the charge sheet said.

Some others are former members of the Palestine Liberation Army, it said.

Following are the suspects in the case as named in the charge sheet:

1— Abdullah Hashaikh, 24, from Tallouzeh, Nabulus, resident of Sweileh; educated,

married, unemployed; detained since Feb. 29, 1994.

2— Ismail Al Amareh, 28, originally from Qazazi, Al Ramleh district, resident of Al Baqaa camp; married, works as the imam of Al Subeithi area mosque. Detained since Dec. 13, 1993.

3— Zakaria Qassem, 23, Beit Nabala, near Iod, resident of Al Hashimi Al Shamali; educated, single, construction worker, detained since Feb. 14, 1994.

4— Jihad Al Tanjir, 24, from Yajouz, resident of Al Hashimi Al Shamali; educated, single, unemployed; detained since Dec. 13, 1993.

5— Mohammad Harithi, Omani national (remains at large).

6— Khalil Alqam, from Barfilia, Lod; resident of Al Hashimi Al Shamali, educated, married, salesman; detained since Feb. 15, 1994.

7— Mohammad Abu Ayyad, 26, from Beit Mahsir near Jerusaleem; resident of Al Baqaa camp; educated, married, employee at a construction material store; detained since Feb. 8, 1994.

8— Mohammad Al Adarbeh (Al Dawaimeh), 25, from Al Dawaimeh, Hebron, resident of Al Baqaa Camp; educated, married, carpenter; detained since Feb. 8, 1994.

9— Samir Taylakh, 23, from Thikrin, Hebron, resident of Al Baqaa; educated, single, carpenter, detained since Feb. 8, 1994.

10— Mohammad Al Fahmawi (known as Mohammad Islam), 22, from Um Al Fahem; resident of Al Baqaa; educated, single student; detained since Feb. 10, 1994.

11— Eid Al Jahaleen, 31, from Hebron; resident of Al Baqaa; educated, married construction worker; detained since Feb. 6, 1994.

12— Yassin Zabara, 20, from Al Ramleh; resident of

Hamas attacks Arafat's 'excessive' security

GAZA (R) — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in the first public attack on Yasser Arafat after his landmark visit to Gaza, lashed out at what it called the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader's excessive security and criticised what they saw as his abuse of power.

Sheikh Salameh Al Safadi, in a Friday sermon to hundreds of supporters at the Palestine Mosque, a stronghold of Hamas, also urged the Palestinian authority in Gaza to execute those who shot and killed a Hamas member last month.

"The Jews have left parts of Gaza and Jericho. Why did you have to put dozens of guards from within your home around you," said Sheikh Safadi, recently released from an Israeli prison.

"It would have been better to use their weapons to cleanse the lands of the Muslims," he said, speaking through a loudspeaker that could be heard several blocks away.

Mr. Arafat, who returned to Gaza last Friday after 27 years in exile, was surrounded by intense security.

His motorcade was surrounded by up to 12 military jeeps and several security cars whenever he toured any area in the strip.

Hamas spokesmen welcomed Mr. Arafat's return to Gaza, but they continued to criticise his peace deal with Israel as a sell-out of the Palestinian cause.

Sheikh Safadi told the crowd that suspected informers have confessed to killing a Hamas activist last month.

He demanded the death penalty for the killers. "God orders you to rule justly. The killer must be killed."

The preacher also questioned the wisdom of spending money on policemen and demanded instead that guerrillas be armed to fight Israeli occupation of other parts of the West Bank still under Israeli military rule.

"We are not in need expect for fighters and holy warriors."

Sheikh Safadi accused the Palestinian authority of hiring former collaborators with Israel and drug addicts to guard Palestinian self-rule institutions in Gaza.

COLUMN

Art professor charged in painting heist

ROME (AP) — A university art professor was arrested on charges he masterminded the robbery of paintings valued at more than \$600,000. Carmine Benincasa was taken into custody at his Rome Villa. He is accused of organising the armed band that stormed a home south of Rome in September and fled with five paintings. Three of the canvases were found in the getaway car. But authorities have not recovered two valuable works: King David by George Rouault and Face Of A Woman by Henri De Toulouse Lautrec. Authorities suspect Mr. Benincasa may have sold the paintings on the black market through contacts he made in an art consulting business he runs with his wife. Prof. Benincasa also teaches at the University of Rome.

Husband flees with daughters from snake-smitten wife

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A woman attracted to snakes so deadly it caused her husband to flee with their two daughters has agreed to give up her menagerie. The husband called police and told them he left with his daughters, aged two and seven, out of fear for his children's safety. Police visited the family apartment and found 16 caged snakes, among them two rattlesnakes, two pythons and two boa constrictors, police spokesman Rob Kouwenhoven said Thursday. The woman's collection also included a scorpion, three iguanas, two dogs, a cockatoo, a parrot, a mynah bird, three parakeets, as well as 20 rats and 20 hamsters kept as food for the snakes. Two police officers convinced the 27-year-old woman to place all but three small snakes in animal shelters, said Mr. Kouwenhoven. The husband and the children have still not returned, he said, adding that other domestic issues were at stake. No charges were filed against the animal lover, since none of her pets were prohibited by law in this pet-friendly nation.

Careless army pilot loses his missile

BANGKOK (R) — This have been warned to keep a watch out for an unexploded missile which accidentally dropped off an army aircraft in northeast Thailand, police said Friday. Police said that if found, the missile should be left well alone. The army has declined to identify the weapon which fell from an army OV-10 aircraft Thursday. Police said their search had been made difficult because the pilot was not sure exactly where he lost his load during a 160 kilometre flight between the towns of Lopburi and Nakon Ratchasima.

Ageing aircraft flying to Britain for show

CAPE TOWN, (R) — One of only two elderly Shackleton aircraft still flying in its way to Britain from Cape Town for a 32-day tour and a military air show, South African Air Force chief Lieutenant-General James Kriel, a former Shackleton pilot, told a news conference the Shackleton Mark 3 had been renovated over the past year to prepare for the Imperial War Museum air display. "It is claimed to be the world's most spectacular military air show and it is really a tribute to air force members to participate," he said. Flight Mission Commander Major Horace Blok said the four-engined aircraft, named after polar explorer Robert Shackleton, was one of several bought by the South African Air Force in 1957 for long-range maritime patrols. He said the aircraft was one of only two in the world which could still fly and both were based in Cape Town. "They formed the backbone of the air-sea rescue and other mercy missions," he said. Maj. Blok said a team of retired air force technicians restored the plane during their free time and a crew of 19 will fly it for 35 hours along the west coast of Africa.

MONSIEUR JEAN-LOUIS TAURAN
FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE VATICAN
The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee regional office for the Middle East wishes to welcome your excellency in Amman. We wish to remind you, excellency, that many Muslim and Christian believers in the one and only God Almighty are still unable to reach the Holy City of Jerusalem and pray in its mosques and churches because of Israel's discriminatory policies and practices. Jerusalem should be open to all believers far from any discrimination.

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